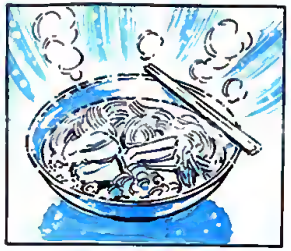

AUTHOR'S NOTES

THERE'S PROBABLY A LOT OF MIXED OPINIONS REGARDING THEIS SOLEMN TOPIC OF "NOODLES."I LIKE TONKOTSU RAMEN BEST, THAT LAVISH RICH SOUP AND CHEWY NOODLES ARE SO HARD TO FORGET ABOUT! HAVING SAID THAT, I'D REALLY LIKE TO JUMP UP, GO OUTSIDE, AND BUY ANOTEHR BOWL!

カバーデザイン／千葉俊栄(ganas)

中華一番!

SHONEN MAGAZINE COMICS

4

小川悦司

KCM2306
KC MAGAZINE

中華一番！ 4

小川悦司

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MAO IS AIMING TO BE THE BEST CHEF, SO HE HAS DECIDED TO TAKE PART IN THE "SUPER CHEF TRIALS" THAT RUN ONCE EVERY FOUR YEARS! THE SUBJECT IS "NOODLES." THE BEST FROM ALL AROUND CHINA COME TO COMPETE AGAINST MAO IN THIS DIFFICULT BATTLE! WILL MAO WIN OUT OF ALL OF THESE TALENTED PEOPLE?

SHONEN MAGAZINE COMICS

絶賛好評発売中

——KC 小川 悦司 作品——

■中華一番！

①〜⑤

'96 8
KC MAGAZINE

CHINATOWN KM

(CKM SCANS)

Credits

Translator: xah

Proofreader: flameshaft

Cleaner: RavieSeeker

Typesetter: flameshaft

QC: xah

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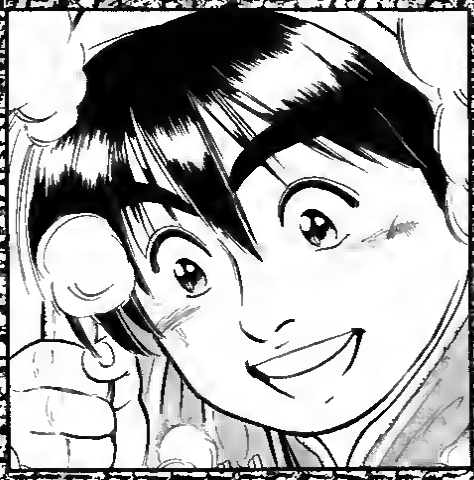
CH 24 MAGIC WATER
CH 25 THE TRUTH OF THE ROCK
CH 26 THE TEST BEGINS!!
CH 27 A WELL
CH 28 URGENCY
CH 29 THE ELASTICITY OF THE NOODLES
CH 30 THE FARAWAY GOAL

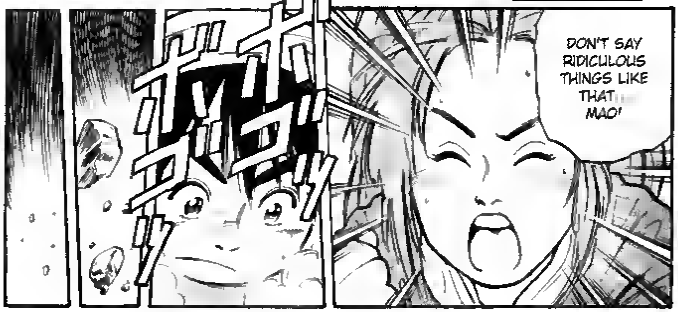
EXTRA - KING OF TOWER

*NOTE: THIS CHAPTER IS A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT STORY. IT IS UNRELATED TO THE MAIN STORY.



中華一番!

chapter 24: magic water

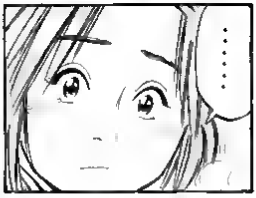


ドヂャッ!!
HUFF ...
WHAT'S UP WITH THAT "HUFF" ?!
AND WHAT'S WITH THAT CRUSHED UP ROCK?
GOOD! THAT'S ENOUGH!
chatter chatter
PUT THE CRUSHED ROCK INTO THE BOILING WATER!
ボヨボヨボヨ
GOOD!
NOW BOIL THIS THROUGH THE NIGHT ...
AND IT WILL TRANSFORM INTO INCOMPARABLE NOODLES THE NEXT MORNING!
ゴゴゴゴゴ
ジャーーーーー
HEHE, THERE'S A STUPID GUY LIKE THAT EVERY YEAR.
chatter chatter chatter

noise
noise
noise
BOILING STONE? I REALLY HAVEN'T A CLUE ABOUT THIS GUY...!

BOTH ARE COOKING LUNATICS?
HE'S JUST LIKE DAD

COOKING LUNATIC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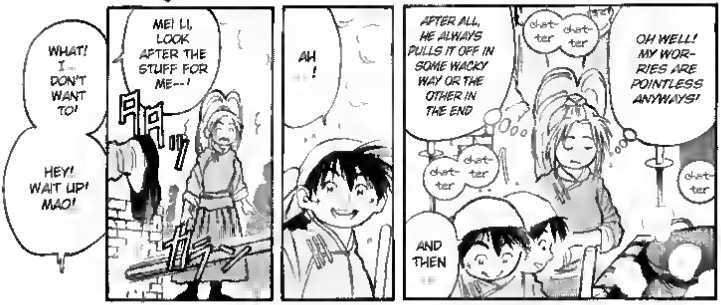
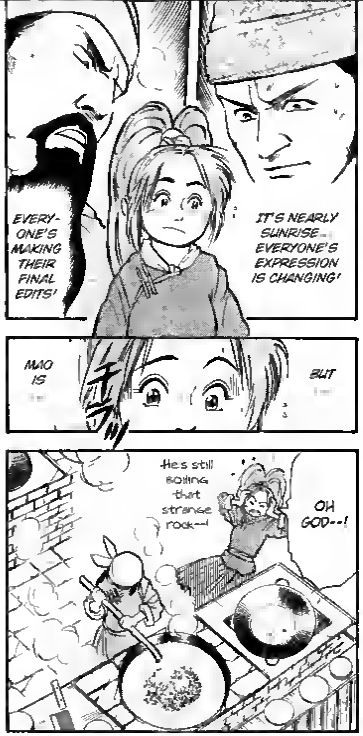

WHAT! I... DON'T WANT TO!
HEY! WAIT UP! MAO!
MEI LI, LOOK AFTER THE STUFF FOR ME--!
AH!
AFTER ALL, HE ALWAYS PULLS IT OFF IN SOME WACKY WAY OR THE OTHER IN THE END
AND THEN
chat-ter
chat-ter
chat-ter
chat-ter
chat-ter
OH WELL! MY WORRIES ARE POINTLESS ANYWAYS!

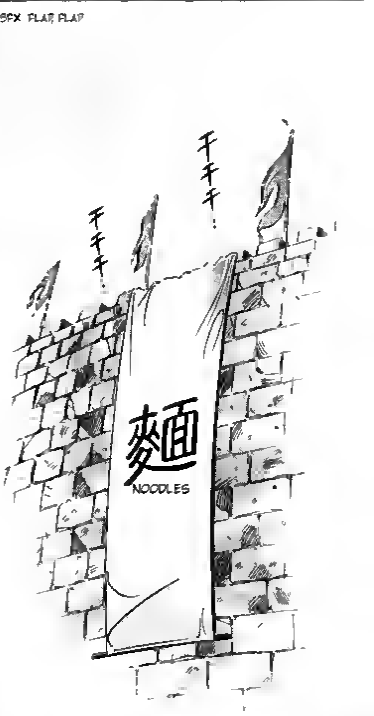
WOW WHAT A GRAND WAY TO MAKE SOUP...!
WHO IS HE...?
HE'S EAST RIVER RESTAURANT'S HAN, A VERY PROMISING NEW CHEF!
バララッ
ドドドドド
バララッ
WOW...
HE'S THROWING MORE BONES IN...!
ゴッ
ギロッ

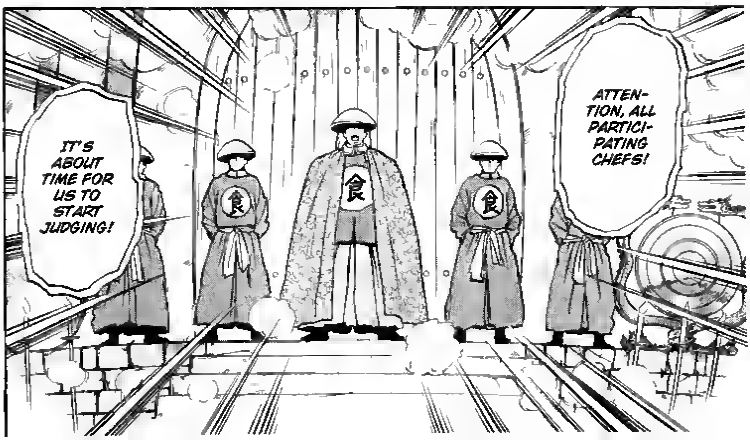
ドカッ
ジャラジャラジャラ
ドカッ
ビシッ
ザッ
!!
……
!!
ボロロッ
HOW DARE YOU SPY ON OTHER PEOPLE'S COOKING,
UNTHINK-ABLE! BRAT

IF YOU DON'T WANT TO DIE,
THEN DON'T COME SO CLOSE TO ME ....!
SFX. HUFF
SFX. STOMP STOMP
SUPER CHEF TRIALS ARE HELD ONCE EVERY FOUR YEARS!
EVERYONE PUTS ALL OF THEIR EFFORTS INTO PREPARING FOR IT!
TOMORROW, EVERYONE WILL BE JUDGED... IT'S NO WONDER WHY EVERYONE'S SO STRESSED
Are you OK?
Okay!
Mao!

W WAIT
AH
SHOULDN'T YOU BE PUTTING YOUR EFFORTS INTO WHAT YOU SHOULD BE DOING —?
SAME WITH YOU! INSTEAD OF LOOKING AROUND CURIOUSLY,
.....
I MUST CONQUER THIS OBSTACLE!
IN ORDER TO REACH MY MOTHER'S LEVEL,
YEAH
BUT
EVERYONE HERE HAS PREPARED A LOT FOR THESE TRIALS
EVERYONE IS DOING THEIR BEST TO PREPARE THE BEST DISH POSSIBLE.


EVERY-ONE'S MAKING THEIR FINAL EDITS!
IT'S NEARLY SUNRISE... EVERYONE'S EXPRESSION IS CHANGING!
MAO IS
チラッ!!
BUT
He's still eating that strange rock--!
OH GOD--!


SFX: FLAP, FLAP
チキチキ...
チキチキ...
麺
NOODLES


IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR US TO START JUDGING!
ATTEN-TION, ALL PARTICI-PATING CHEFS!
食
食
食

ANYONE WHO'S FINISHED, PLEASE RAISE YOUR HAND!
WE WILL JUDGE ACCORDING TO WHO PUTS THEIR HAND UP FIRST!
JUDGING TIME ...
ENDS WHEN THIS STICK OF INCENSE IS FULLY BURNED!
THAT'S APPROXIMATELY UNTIL DUSK!
AND THEN ...

IN OTHER WORDS, EVEN IF THE TIME ISN'T UP IF FIVE VALID COMPETITORS ARE CHOSEN, THE COMPETITION WILL STILL END.
mutter
mutter
mutter
mutter
mutter
ONLY FIVE PEOPLE WILL BE ACCEPTED IN THIS ROUND!
FIVE FIVE PEOPLE ?
IN OTHER WORDS, WHOEVER MAKES IT THE FASTEST WILL WIN!
CAN YOU MAKE IT? MAO!
AN-NOUN-CE-MENT OVER!
COME! JUDGES!
DAMN DAMN IT!
WHY THE HELL IS THERE SOME-ONE THIS FAST?
OH...! AND... AND IT'S...
Pro-test
Pro-test
Pro-test
EAST FOREST RESTAURANT'S "FIERCE WARRIOR," HAN!

EH... WHAT IS HE DOING...?
chat-ter chat-ter
HYAA-AAA !!!
UWAAH-- HE'S DOING HIS "DOUBLE CHAINED COOKING KNIFE" TECHNIQUE--!!

DONE!
ドドドドドド
ビビビ

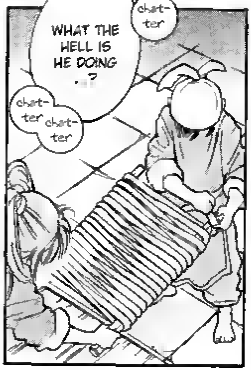
OHHHH ...!! THIS... THIS ...!!
MY BODY SUDDENLY FEELS LIKE IT HAS EXTRAORDINARY POWER!!
THIS RICH SOUP IS MAINLY MADE OUT OF BEEF, PORK AND CHICKEN BONES.
IT MUST HAVE TAKEN A LONG TIME!
Though I'm drinking it it feels more like I'm chewing it!
THE NOODLE DOUGH WAS POUNDED FOR A LONG TIME TOO, AS IT'S VERY CHEWY! I HAVE NEVER EATEN SUCH ELASTICITY...!
THE FACT THAT THERE AREN'T MUCH ADDITIVES FURTHER HIGLIGHTS THE TASTE OF BONES IN THIS SOUP!
HAH! LET ME ASK YOU!
WHY WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR NOODLES AS "INCOMPARABLE"?
MY SOUP IS MADE OUT OF A LOT OF BONES AND A LOT OF MANPOWER WAS NEEDED TO MAKE IT. THIS SOUP IS A PERFECT COMBINATION OF THE TWO AND THEREFORE IT IS FULL OF ENERGY!
THE NOODLES WERE ALSO MADE WITH UTMOST CARE!
IN OTHER WORDS, IF YOU EAT MY NOODLES----

COME ON! JUDGE IT!
EVEN A SICK PERSON YESTERDAY WILL BECOME AN "INCOMPARABLE" PERSON!
Mur-mur
Mur-mur
Mur-mur
Mur-mur
ONE OF THE FEW SPACES OF FATE WAS GONE ALMOST INSTANTLY!
WOAH! THE FLAG WAS RAISED!
EAST RIVER RESTAURANT'S HAN ...
PASSES !

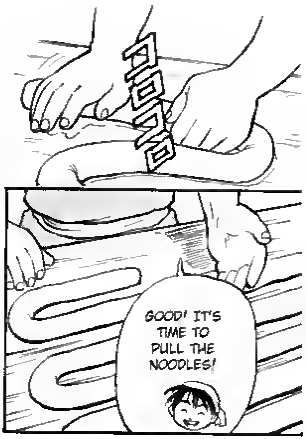
HEY, MAO!
OK! I WON'T LOSE!
THERE ARE ONLY FOUR SPACES LEFT!
Noise
Noise
Noise
Noise
Noise
SOMEONE PASSED ALREADY
WILL ALLOW THE WATER TO EVAPORATE, MAKING THE MAIZE MORE DELICIOUS!
LIGHTLY FRYING MAIZE LIKE THIS BEFORE GRINDING
DON'T WORRY!
HEY...! I DON'T GET YOU! YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE YOU CARE AT ALL!
OH GOD! YOU HAVEN'T EVEN MADE THE FLOUR FOR THE NOODLES!
Isn't that raw maize?
OK! LET'S BEGIN COMBINING THE TWO!
NOW THIS IS FINALLY LOOKING BETTER
NO, I NEED FRESH FLOUR
GEEZ! YOU SHOULD HAVE MADE THINGS LIKE FLOUR AGES AGO!

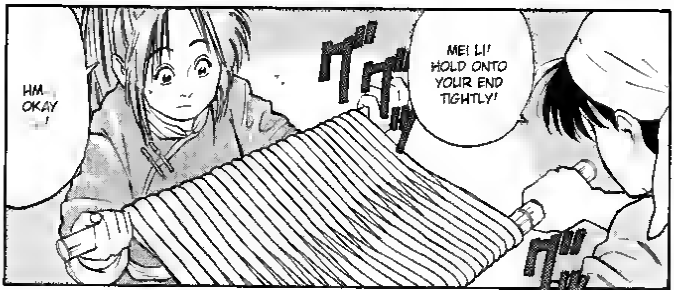
WAIT!
YOU MUST HAVE WATER TO MAKE NOODLES OR ELSE IT WON'T WORK!
HERE'S WATER!
WA-TER!
パシャ
THEN ADD A FEW EGGS
COLLECT ALL THE FLOUR TOGETHER, THEN MAKE A HOLE
MUSTN'T HAVE ANY WATER IN THEM!
MY NOOD-LES--
...ANYWAY, IF I DO ADD WATER, I WON'T BE ABLE TO MAKE INCOMPARABLE NOODLES...!
...?
HOW COULD YOU MAKE NOODLES WITHOUT ADDING WATER? IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'RE MAKING DANGO!
THERE YOU GO AGAIN! YOU'RE ALWAYS SAYING SOMETHING STUPID!
SNAP!

WOW---! THE CRUSHED ROCK HAS SETTLED DOWN AT THE BOTTOM!
THE WATER USED TO BE DIRTY, BUT NOW IT'S CRYSTAL CLEAR!
OKAY
I'LL DO THAT THEN
THE STUFF IN THAT WOK SHOULD BE DONE BY NOW...
HM- THAT'S WEIRD! YOU USED THE WATER FROM BOILING ROCKS!
NOW COMBINE IT WITH THE FLOUR!
TO BE HONEST, THIS WATER IS MY MOST IMPORTANT INGREDIENT...
WHAT...?
DON'T TELL ME...!
THAT WATER IS...!
.....!!


WHAT THE HELL IS HE DOING...?
chat-ter
chat-ter
chat-ter

HE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW THE BASICS, WHY THE HELL IS HE HERE?
WHAT A STRANGE LITTLE GUY!
chat-ter
WHY WOULD THAT HEAP OF FLOUR TURN INTO NOODLES? IT'LL JUST SNAP!
chat-ter


GOOD! IT'S TIME TO PULL THE NOODLES!


MEI LI! HOLD ONTO YOUR END TIGHTLY!
HM... OKAY!

せーの…

HOW NAIVE! IT'S OBVIOUSLY GOING TO SNAP---!
chat-ter
chat-ter
SO HE ASKED SOMEONE ELSE TO HOLD ONTO ONE END, WHILE HE STRETCHED THE REST
chat-ter
chat-ter
chat-ter
chat-ter

WHAT ?
chat-ter
chat-ter
WOAH... WOW! IT'S BEING STRETCHED!
chat-ter
chat-ter
AND IT'S BEING STRETCHED THIS FAR TOO!
chat-ter
chat-ter
GOOD !!

SFX FLAP FLAP
麺
NOODLES

CHINATOWN KM

(CKM SCANS)

Credits

Translator: xah

Proofreader: flameshaft

Cleaner: RavieSeeker

Typesetter: flameshaft

QC: xah

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24/07/13
Happy Birthday yasutok!!!
Although you're still pretty new to our scanlation group, you've already made a HUGE difference to our group!! CKM staff would like to take this opportunity to thank you! Happy birthday too!
http://ckmscans.hellofight.com

chapter 25: the truth of the rock

ガーン
ドサッ!!
GOOD ---!
AHH LOOK !!
AH !!
Dis- cuss
Dis- cuss
.....
THOSE NOODLES !!
THE NOODLES CLUMPED TOGETHER BY THEM- SELVES!!
JUST WHAT ARE THESE NOODLES --!
ONE HAND GENTLY KNEADS THE DOUGH WHILE THE OTHER SEPARATES THEM INTO THE RIGHT SERVING SIZE
NEXT,

GOOD!
MY NOODLES ARE DONE!
THAT'S AWESOME! YOU'RE FINALLY DONE!
BUT MAO! YOU OUGHT TO HURRY UP AND MAKE THE ACCOMPANYING SOUP
ポン
NO!
EH?
IN MY "INCOMPARABLE" NOODLES,
NO "SOUP" IS NEEDED.
HAH?
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU SAYING!!
HOW ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO EAT NOODLES WITHOUT SOUP!!
ゴゴゴ
MAO
ゴゾゴゾ

HEHE
ADD SOME LARD
ウウウ
DON'T FORGET THE GINGER AND PEPPER !!
THEN ADD GREEN ONION AND GARLIC,
HIM !!
AH !!
MA MAO !!
I'M DONE, JUDGES.

chat-ter
chat-ter
chat-ter
CHIEF CHIEF JUDGE !!
COULD THIS BE !!
THEY MUST BE THE LEG-ENDARY
"DRAGON HAIR NOODLES" !!
THESE EXTREMELY FINE AND THIN NOODLES !!
THERE'S NO MISTAKE ABOUT IT!
TO MAKE THESE HAIR-THIN NOODLES, THE DOUGH MUST BE KNEADED MANY MORE TIMES THAN THE AVERAGE ONES,
THEN A LOT OF ATTENTION, EFFORT, AND TOP-LEVEL TECH-NIQUES ARE NEEDED TO COM-PLETE THEM!
MOST PEOPLE STOP PULLING THE NOODLES AFTER TEN TIMES BECAUSE THEY FIND THAT THEY CAN'T GET THE NOODLES ANY FINER.
BUT THIS !!

DRAGON HAIR NOODLES REQUIRE AT LEAST ANOTHER ADDITIONAL TWENTY TIMES...
SO THEY REALLY ARE THIN NOODLES THAT ONLY APPEAR IN LEGENDS!!
TW...
TWENTY TIMES...!?
AS THE NOODLES ARE TOO THIN, SOMETIMES THEY MIGHT MELT IN HOT WATER,
SO THE MUST BE COOKED UNDER LOW TEMPERATURES!!
DIM SUM MASTERS WHO CAN DO SUCH A THING ARE VERY RARE...
BUT THIS GUY...!!
WOW...!! THIS SLIGHTLY SWEET BUT FRESH FLAVOUR
SLOWLY EXPANDS IN MY MOUTH.
THIS FLAVOUR IS SO PRECISE, SUCH FINE QUALITY...!!

ABOVE THE DISTINCT TASTE OF TEMPURA FLOUR, THERE IS A PLEASANT TRACE OF GRANULATED SUGAR...!!
WHAT A CLEVER IDEA OF MAKING NOODLES INTO A SWEET DESSERT !!
THE OIL USED TO FRY THE ACCOMPANYING DISH WAS ALSO A MILD PEANUT OIL...!
THE TASTE OF THESE NOODLES IS EXCEPTIONAL EVERYTHING IN THIS BOWL SPEAKS OF UTMOST QUALITY
HOWEVER, THERE IS SOMETHING ELSE IN THE FLAVOUR THAT I CAN'T QUITE DISTINGUISH
THE SCENT AND TASTE OF IT HIGHLIGHTS THE FLAVOUR OF EVERYTHING IN THIS DISH
SO... WHAT... IS IT...!?
SOMEONE WITH SKILLS AS BAD AS YOURS,
SHOULDN'T EVEN BE JUDGING!
BRAT
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT...
LOTUS

I WRAPPED THE FLOUR IN A LOTUS LEAF AND LEFT IT FOR THE ENTIRE NIGHT...
THE MYSTERIOUS FLAVOUR IN THE NOODLES IS THE POLLEN OF LOTUSES
WHAT...!?
LOTUS...!?
TO KEEP THE FLAVOUR OF THE LOTUSES IN HIS NOODLES...!!
HE ONLY FRIED
chatter
chatter
chatter
chatter
SO THAT "SCENT" WAS REALLY LOTUS POLLEN
OH... I SEE
WHY WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR NOODLES AS "INCOMPARABLE"?
LET ME ASK YOU THIS!!
BUT UNFORTUNATELY, THAT'S NOT ENOUGH FOR ME TO LET YOU JUST PASS!!
GOOD... THEN YOU PASS ON THE FLAVOUR ASPECT OF THE JUDGING
I SEE...!!
NO WONDER HE WRAPPED HIS NOODLE DOUGH IN A LOTUS LEAF!
AND TO COMPARE IT TO THE "CONTENT," WELL...
YOUR DISH IS EXTREMELY FEMININE...

MY BOWL OF NOODLES ACCURATELY PORTRAYS
"UNMATCHED BEALITY" !!
WHAT !!
WHAT
EVER SINCE ANCIENT TIMES, DURING MARRIAGE,
THE NEWLYWED HUSBAND CAN BE DESCRIBED AS "INCOMPARABLE" WHILE THE WIFE IS KNOWN AS "UNMATCHED BEALITY."
AND COUPLES ARE ONE ENTITY!
IN OTHER WORDS, "INCOMPARABLE" AND "UNMATCHED BEALITY" ARE OPPOSITE, BUT CLOSELY LINKED TOGETHER !!
LAN FEI HONG !!
PASSES !!

chat-ter
chat-ter
chat-ter
chat-ter
chat-ter
chat-ter
chat-ter
FEI'S BACK IN GUANG-ZHOU?
LAN FEI HONG...? SO HE'S THE FAMOUS GUY KNOWN AS "FEI"!?
ANOTHER... ANOTHER ONE PASSED !!

HE CAN MAKE SUCH THIN NOOD-LES
AMAZING
JUST AMAZING !!
HIS NAME IS FEI !!
SO !!
"FEI" !!

ZHI LIN !!
PAS-SES !!
!?

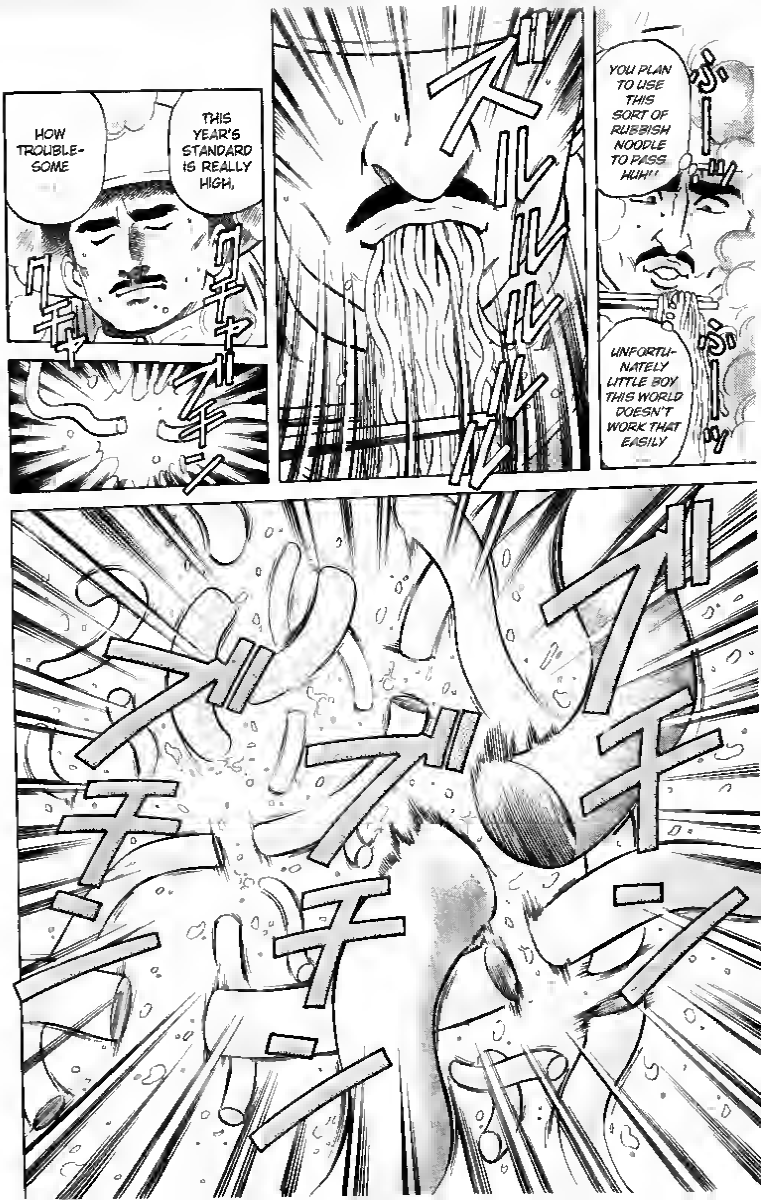
DRAGON HAIR NOODLES HUH
I WONDER WHAT IT TASTES LIKE
OH NO ... ONLY THREE SPACES LEFT

MAO, WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING!!
THERE'S ONLY THREE MORE SPACES LEFT!!

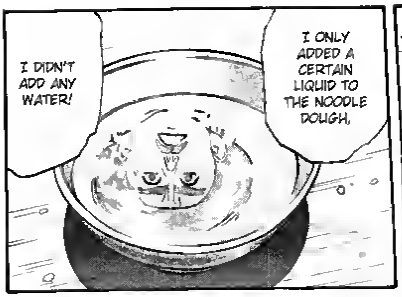
ミシュウウ
chat-ter
chat-ter
"MAGIC GIRL" ZHI LIN !!
WHAT
WHAT ?
ISN'T SHE THE ONLY FEMALE CHEF THAT ENTERED THIS YEAR'S SUPER CHEF TRIALS,
chat-ter
chat-ter
chat-ter
A THIRD PERSON PASSED !!
WHAT !!
chat-ter
chat-ter
THE RAW NOODLES ARE ALREADY DONE, AND YOU DON'T NEED TO MAKE SOUP. SO WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR --!!
MAO!! ARE YOU STILL NOT DONE ?!
Don't blame everything on me
TWO MORE SPACES LEFT
ONLY
BETTER HURRY !!
DAMN IT !!
バサ!!!
chat-ter
chat-ter
HE REALLY DID PASS AS EXPECTED!
EVERYONE SAYS HIS SKILLS ARE MORE THAN JUST OUTSTANDING ...!
chat-ter
.....
PASSES !!
PANLIN RESTAURANT'S DAN !!
ミシュウウウウ
ドカ!!!

ARE ALL GIVING UP AND LEAVING ONE BY ONE...
MA... MAO! THOSE STRONG OPPONENTS...
THERE'S NOT MUCH TIME LEFT!!
ONLY ONE... SPACE LEFT!
THERE'S ONLY ONE SPACE LEFT BUT THE TIME IS ALSO...!!
chat-ter
chat-ter
chat-ter
IT'S THE END!
chat-ter
THIS... THIS IS IT!
chat-ter
chat-ter
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING, AREN'T THESE NOODLES THE SAME AS BEFORE!?
YOU HAVEN'T MADE ANY PROGRESS!
NO! THIS A VERY IMPORTANT PART OF THE PROCESS!
MAO, HURRY! TIME AND SPACES ARE RUNNING OUT!!
IF SOMEONE RAISES THEIR HAND NOW, EVERYTHING WILL GO TO WASTE!!
DONE!!
I'M DONE!! I'M DONE!!
I'VE FINISHED!!

chat-ter
chat-ter
chat-ter
HANG ON A MINUTE
.....
YOU SPENT SO MANY HOURS PREPARING THIS, BUT WHAT PART OF IT SHOWS THAT, LIU MAO HSING...!?
THERE IS NO SOUP NOR ACCOMPANY-ING DISHES ON THIS PLATE, JUST A BUNCH OF ORDI-NARY NOODLES
OR ARE THERE SOME HIDDEN ADDI-TIVES...?
DOES THIS KID REALLY THINK THAT HE WILL BE FAVOURED JUST BECAUSE HE HAS THE SUPPORT OF GENERAL LEE?
HMPH
NONE AT ALL!


THIS YEAR'S STANDARD IS REALLY HIGH,
HOW TROUBLE-SOME
YOU PLAN TO USE THIS SORT OF RUBBISH NOODLE TO PASS. HUH!!
UNFORTU-NATELY LITTLE BOY THIS WORLD DOESN'T WORK THAT EASILY

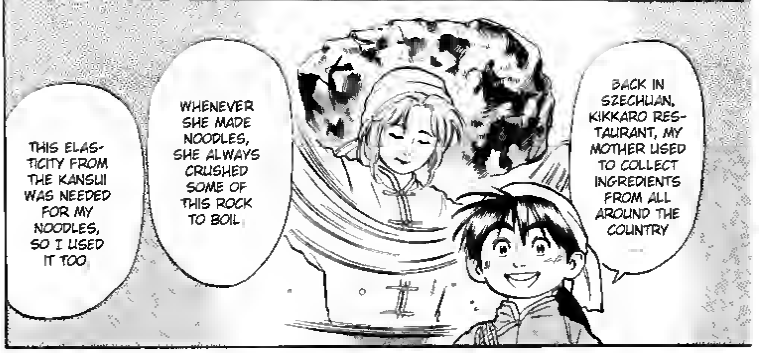
THESE NOODLES SNAP APART IN MY MOUTH ...!!
THESE... THESE NOOD-LES ...
ズルル
CHIEF JUDGE, WHAT DO YOU MEAN!?
WELL WE'LL TRY THEM TOO ...!!
ズルル
WHENEVER I BITE THEM, THEY SNAP APART AGAINST MY TEETH!
SUCH ELASTIC NOODLES ...!!
I HAVE NEVER EATEN SUCH TASTY NOODLES!
ゴクン

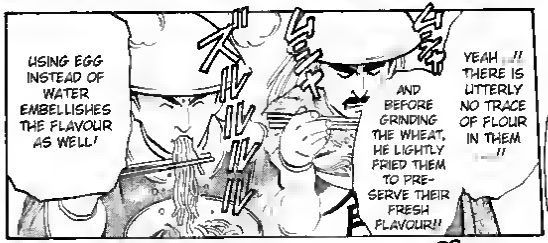

I DIDN'T ADD ANY WATER!
I ONLY ADDED A CERTAIN LIQUID TO THE NOODLE DOUGH.
!!
THESE NOODLES ARE REALLY CHEWY, HOW DID YOU DO IT, LIU MAO HSING!?

COULD IT BE "MAGIC WATER" -!?
WHAT IS THIS LIQUID?
WITHOUT WATER, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO MAKE NOODLES AS LONG AND AS ELASTIC AS THESE ONES!!
HOW IS THAT POSSI-BLE -!!

T/N: THINK OF IT LIKE THIS, CHINESE "LYE" WATER

KANSUI IS A MAGNIFICENT LIQUID ORIGINATED FROM GANSU'S CAPITAL, LANZHOU
HEY CHIEF JUDGE !!
WHAT IS KANSUI !?
JUST A FEW DROPS OF IT IS ENOUGH TO GIVE FLOUR AN UNSPEAKABLE ELASTICITY
AS THE WATER MET WITH THE ASH AND FORMED INTO ROCK IT'S A MAN-MADE TYPE OF ROCK
TRUTH IS, THESE STONES ARE THE RESULT OF LANZHOU PEOPLE BURNING WASTE,
KANSUI IS THE CLEAR, SPARKLING LIQUID THAT SEEPS OUT OF IT!
TO GET THE WATER, YOU HAVE TO BOIL A SPECIFIC TYPE OF ROCK
OH COULD YOUR MOTHER BE MASTER PAI
IT'S SOMETHING MY MOTHER USED BACK IN SZECHUAN!
HOW DID YOU GET SOMETHING SO PRECIOUS?
UWAH !! THIS IS MY FIRST TIME SEEING SUCH A ROCK
YES!
MAO HSING! IS THIS MYSTERIOUS ROCK THE TYPE I'M TALKING ABOUT?


BACK IN SZECHUAN, KIKKARO RESTAURANT, MY MOTHER USED TO COLLECT INGREDIENTS FROM ALL AROUND THE COUNTRY
WHENEVER SHE MADE NOODLES, SHE ALWAYS CRUSHED SOME OF THIS ROCK TO BOIL
THIS ELASTICITY FROM THE KANSUI WAS NEEDED FOR MY NOODLES, SO I USED IT TOO


BUT THESE NOODLES ARE DELICIOUS...
NOT JUST BECAUSE OF THEIR TEXTURE, CHIEF JUDGE!
YEAH...!! THERE IS LITTERLY NO TRACE OF FLOUR IN THEM...!!
AND BEFORE GRINDING THE WHEAT, HE LIGHTLY FRIED THEM TO PRESERVE THEIR FRESH FLAVOUR!!
USING EGG INSTEAD OF WATER EMBELLISHES THE FLAVOUR AS WELL!

HE ALSO USED PRE-PREPARED LARD TO COOK THESE!!
THE LARD HAS THE DELICIOUS TASTE OF CERTAIN MIXED HERBS
YOU MUST HAVE SPENT A WHILE PREPARING THIS!!
No wonder you kept on going that
Oh, so that's why
Good!
AWESOME!
TO USE SO LITTLE INGREDIENTS TO MAKE SUCH DELICIOUS FOOD IS THE HIGHEST GLORY OF COOKING!
NOT TO MENTION THAT IT GIVES YOU EXCELLENT RESULTS!
GOOD, NOW LET ME ASK YOU THIS!!
WHY WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR NOODLES AS "INCOMPARABLE"?

I TOOK THE EASIEST PERCEPTION OF "INCOMPARABLE".
IN THIS WORLD, THE PREVALING THING,
IS THE MOST DELICIOUS MEAL!
CHOUYU-SENSEI
HAN XIN WHO PEOPLE HAVE DESCRIBED AS "INCOMPARABLE", ONCE SAID THAT IT IS NOT THE WEAPONS OR THE ARMY THAT WINS A BATTLE,
IT IS SIMPLY THE COURAGE OF A SOLDIER!
THEREFORE THESE DELICIOUS NOODLES, THAT DON'T REQUIRE ANY ADDITIONAL THINGS,
ARE MY "INCOMPARABLE" NOODLES!
YANG SPRING RESTAURANT'S LIU MAO HSING ...
PASSES!

WAIT... YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG IDEA...!!
EH!?
You're super chef, you're super chef now!
YIPPEE !!
"SUPER CHEF TRIALS" ...
WHAT ...?
THE REAL THING STARTS NOW.

THE REAL THING ...
STARTS NOW ...?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
YOU'LL KNOW IN A MINUTE!
ALL FIVE SPACES HAVE NOW BEEN FILLED!
THE INCENSE HAS BURNED OUT TOO!
ニヤアアン

CHINATOWN KM

(CKM SCANS)

Translator: xah
Proofreader: flameshaft
Cleaner: RavieSeeker
Typesetter: flameshaft
QC: Hidaka Ichirou

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中華一番!
chapter 26: the test begins!!
PRELIMINARY TEST OF THE SUPER CHEF TRIALS IS NOW OFFICIALLY OVER!
NOW THE OFFICIAL TESTS SHALL BEGIN!

THAT WAS JUST THE PRELIMINARY TEST
YEAH
THE FUN STARTS NOW
SO... JUST THEN WAS WHAT...!?
OFFICIAL TESTS!!
OFFICIAL...
ALL OF YOU PERFORMED OUTSTANDINGLY WITH YOUR "INCOMPARABLE NOODLES"!!
ALL FIVE WHO PASSED, PLEASE STAND!!
EAST FOREST RESTAURANT'S "FIERCE WARRIOR", HAN!
HE USED LARGE AMOUNTS OF BEEF, PORK AND CHICKEN BONES AND SPENT MOST OF HIS TIME ADJUSTING HIS SOUP.
IT IS CERTAINLY FABULOUS SOUP!!
THE THEME IS "EVEN A SICK PERSON WILL BECOME AN 'INCOMPARABLE' PERSON". THE FLAVOUR IS RICH AND THEREFORE HE PASSED!!

GUANGZHOU COOKING WORLD'S "MAGIC GIRL," ZHI LIN.
SHE MADE "NOODLES OF THE WILD"!
INGREDIENTS USED INCLUDE SNAKE, FROG, WILD RABBIT, PIGEON, WILD CHICKEN, SCORPIONS, BATS ETC. ALL FAMOUS GUANGZHOU "WILD" FLAVOURS.
THE NOODLES WERE FILLED WITH EXOTIC FLAVOUR, PERFECTLY SUITABLE FOR AN "INCOMPARABLE" PERSON TO EAT!
USING THESE DIFFERENT INGREDIENTS WITH NOODLES, GAVE THEM A HIGH-QUALITY, POLISHED FLAVOUR
HER INTRICATE MAGIC WITH FOOD ALLOWED HER TO PASS!!

PANLIN RESTAURANT'S SECOND TOP CHEF, DAN.
HE MADE "EIGHT TREASURE NOODLES"
WHICH INCLUDE
ABOLONE, SQUID, CRAB, SHRIMP, PORK BALLS, BAMBOO SHOOTS, SHIITAKE MUSHROOMS AND HAM.
THE NOODLES WERE DECORATED BY THESE EIGHT INGREDIENTS
AND THE WORDS "COMPASSION," "LOYALTY," "COURTESY," "STRENGTH," "WISDOM," "FRIENDSHIP" AND "JUSTICE" WERE ENGRAVED ON THEM.
THOSE WHO ARE "INCOMPARABLE" SHOULD HAVE ALL OF THESE VIRTUES,
AND IT'S FLAVOUR SHOWED THE THOUGHTFULNESS OF THE CHEF AS CAREFUL CHOPPING SKILLS AND CONTROL OF HEAT WERE NEEDED, THEREFORE HE PASSED AS WELL!!

DATONG RESTAURANT'S FEI!
HE MADE THE LEGENDARY, ULTRA-THIN "DRAGON HAIR NOODLES." IT PORTRAYS THE CONTRASTING PHRASE OF "INCOMPARABLE STRENGTH," WHICH IS, "UNMATCHED BEALITY" !!
MAKING NOODLES INTO AN EXQUISITE DESSERT AND THIS INTERESTING COMPARISON, ALLOWED HIM TO PASS!
YANG SPRING RESTAURANT'S MAO,
HE USED LANGZHOU'S KANSUI,
TO BRING OUT THE ORIGINAL TASTES IN NOODLES.
HIS NOODLES WERE TASTY, AND THE TEXTURE WAS PARTICULARLY GOOD, THEREFORE BECOMING CHINA'S BEST ORIGINAL NOODLES AND BEING "INCOMPARABLE."
USING THE LEAST INGREDIENTS TO MAKE THE BEST KIND OF NOODLES ALSO ALLOWED HIM TO PASS!!

WE SHALL NOW HEAD TOWARDS THE MAIN AREA!!
THESE FIVE PEOPLE MAY NOW PROCEED TO THE OFFICIAL TESTS.
ギギギ…

ゴゴゴゴゴゴ
ガガガ…

SO, YOU MAY COME IN IF YOU WISH!
THE OFFICIAL TESTS HAVE BEGUN
THE MAIN COMPE-TITION AREA
THIS PLACE IS
!!
ドドドドド
THERE... THERE'S MOUNTAINS OF INGREDI-ENTS HERE...!!

WHAT ARE YOU GUYS GAPING AT, LIKE IDIOTS !?
THE OFFICIAL TESTS ARE ABOUT TO BEGIN !!
ALL OF THESE INGREDIENTS ARE TOP-QUALITY AND FRESH,
WOW !!
AND THERE'S SO MUCH !!
THIS IS THE LEGENDARY "ARENA OF FLAVOURS" !!
. . . !!
IT WAS SPECIALLY BUILT FOR THE SUPER CHEF TRIALS !!

TN: IT'S ACTUALLY RUOH-TAISHI AND CHOUYU-SAN, BUT, AS THEY'RE IN CHINA, I SHOULD NOT BE USING JAPANESE HONORIFICS RIGHT ...!?

ONCE COMPETED AND WON HERE TOO ...

RUOH AND CHOUYU ...

AND SOME OF THEM PASSED TOO!

ALL THE PREVIOUS COMPETITORS ONCE STOOD HERE, IN THIS "ARENA OF FLAVOURS."

... IT SEEMS TO BE A WOMAN SPEAKING ...

SO IN OTHER WORDS, THE MAIN JUDGE WILL BE A WOMAN ...!?

HM !?

THEY SAY... "SZECHUAN HAS THE GODDESS, PAI, WHILE GUANGZHOU HAS A TIGER, LEIHUA" ...

THAT'S RIGHT !!

SHE'S THE LEGENDARY FEMALE CHEF---

LEIHUA !!

SHE... SHE...

DON'T... DON'T TELL ME ...!!

THE STANDARDS WILL BE HIGHER THIS YEAR
IF SHE'S THE MAIN JUDGE
SHE DOESN'T HAVE ANY APPRENTICES LEARNING UNDER HER EITHER..!!
HER TECHNIQUES ARE ASTONISHING AND SHE HAS STRICT REQUIREMENTS FOR FOOD, WHETHER IT IS HER OWN OR OTHERS'
SHE HAS A RANK SIMILAR TO MY MOM'S...
SHE...
AND THE NEW "INGREDIENT" IS...
THIS SUBJECT IS--
麺
[NOODLES]
NOW WE SHALL BEGIN WITH THE OFFICIAL TESTS...
WHAT...THIS IS!!
!!
NOODLES...!!

TRANSLATION NOTE: THE CHARACTER FOR "FLOUR" AND "NOODLES" IS EXACTLY THE SAME. THIS APPLIES TO BOTH CHINESE AND JAPANESE. ENGLISH CAN'T CONVEY THIS PUN BASICALLY THE PUN "NO FLOUR" CAN MEAN "NOODLES WITH NO FLOUR" OR "NOODLES THAT ARE NOT NOODLES" AND BY "FLOUR", IT'S "WHEAT FLOUR", FOR LATER REFERENCES.

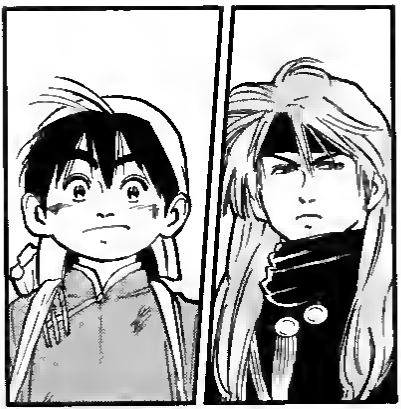
TIME ---
YOU HAVE UNTIL MIDNIGHT TO PREPARE !!
OVER !!
カッ
. . . . !!
ガッ
ガ
スン
UWAH !!

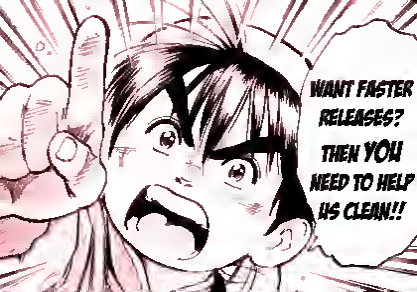
HE LIFTED THE COW
THE WHOLE THING !!
ズズ…
……!!
ズズズ
……
フー…
HE'S PICKING THE BEST ONES TO USE
FEK-SAN HAS BEGUN TOO
ゴロ

HM ...?
WHAT'S "MAGIC GIRL" DOING ...!?
WHAT'S THAT BLACK POWDER ...?
SMOKE ...?
OH, SHE PUT SOME INTO THE BAMBOO

パーン
THAT SHOULD BE STRONG ENOUGH
HOW CAN GUNPOWDER MAKE FOOD !?
BUT
GUN-POWDER !!
SO THAT BLACK POWDER WAS

"NO FLOUR"
CAN HAVE ANOTHER MEANING
MAO, QUIT LOOKING AT OTHER PEOPLE, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
WAIT
MAO ?
"NOODLES WITH NO FLOUR."
THIS IS MY ANSWER.




WANT FASTER RELEASES?
THEN YOU NEED TO HELP US CLEAN!!

CHINATOWN KM

(CKM SCANS)

4-koma edited by flameshaft

Translator: xah
Proofreader: flameshaft
Cleaner: RavieSeeker
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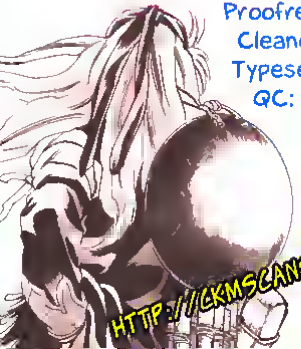
QC: Hidaka Ichirou

The credits xD



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LOCATION IS AT THE LEGENDARY "ARENA OF FLAVOURS,"
THE FIVE COMPETITORS WHO PASSED THE PRELIMINARY TEST WILL NOW BEGINNING THE OFFICIAL BATTLE !!
THE ULTIMATE "SUPER-CHEF TRIALS" !!
中華一番!
chapter 27: a'well
AND THE NEW TOPIC IS ...
否麺
[NO FLOUR]
麺
[NOODLES]
"NOODLES WITH NO FLOUR" !!
IT'S NOODLES ...
BUT NOT MADE OF FLOUR!

TN: REMEMBER THE FUN CHARACTERS FOR "NOODLES" AND "FLOUR" IS THE SAME. SO IT CAN BE INTERPRETED AS "NOODLES THAT ARE NOT NOODLES" ALSO BY "NO FLOUR" THEY REALLY MEAN "NO WHEAT FLOUR" -- THIS WILL BE SOMEWHAT SIGNIFICANT IN LATER CHAPTERS.

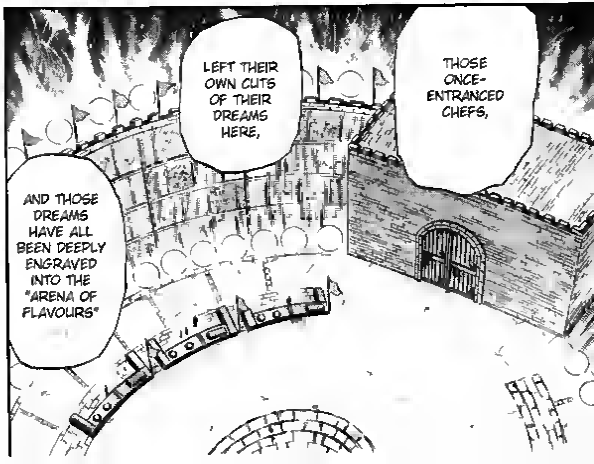
ER, CATFISH...?
HM?
OKAY---!!
MUST DO MY BEST---!!
.....!!

!!
THEY'RE EVERY-WHERE ..!!
WOW... THESE ARE MARKS LEFT BY CHOPPING KNIVES
IT'S DENTED FROM PEOPLE WHO DID HOURS OF WORK HERE ..!!
AHH... THE STONE FLOOR TOO ...
I KNEW THAT A BRAT LIKE YOU SHOULDN'T BE COMING HERE
!!
SO WHY IS THIS ...!!
DON'T... THEY JUST USE THIS PLACE ONCE EVERY FOUR YEARS ...
.....
!!

AND YOU COULD SAY THEY ARE "CUTS OF THEIR DREAMS"
THESE CUTS ARE ALL FROM THE PREVIOUS COMPETITORS OF THE SUPER CHEF TRIALS,

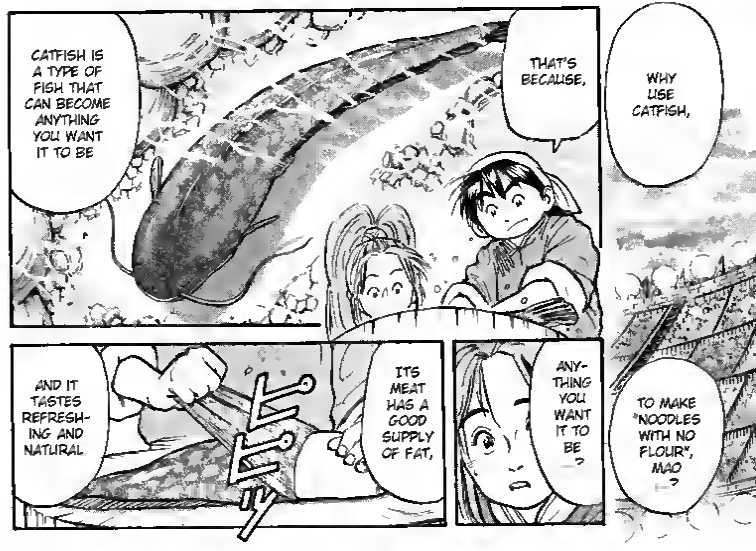
LIM

WHILE TEN TIMES THAT MINORITY NO. A HUNDRED MORE TIMES, COULD ONLY JUST CRY IN SHAME OR ENVY IN A DARK CORNER
BUT THOSE WHO PASSED, WERE REALLY JUST A TINY MINORITY
YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW MANY PEOPLE, CONSIDERED TO BE "GENIUSES,", ONCE CAME HERE AND FOUGHT


AND THOSE DREAMS HAVE ALL BEEN DEEPLY ENGRAVED INTO THE "ARENA OF FLAVOURS"
LEFT THEIR OWN CUTS OF THEIR DREAMS HERE,
THOSE ONCE-ENTRANCED CHEFS,

THE FOUR-THOUSAND YEAR HISTORY OF CHINESE CUISINE---
EVEN TODAY, EVERY SCENE, EVERY ACT STILL LIVES IN THIS ARENA
YOU BEING IN HERE,
MEANS THAT YOU WERE PRETTY LUCKY
BUT UNFORTUNATELY, TODAY'S VICTOR
WILL BE ME, DAN!!
LEAVE MARKS OF YOUR OWN DREAMS HERE AND THEN GO HOME AND SLEEP, BRAT!
YEAH RIGHT!

I WILL ...
BE THE WINNER !!


WHY USE CATFISH,
THAT'S BECAUSE,
CATFISH IS A TYPE OF FISH THAT CAN BECOME ANYTHING YOU WANT IT TO BE
ANY-THING YOU WANT IT TO BE —?
TO MAKE "NOODLES WITH NO FLOUR", MAO —?
ITS MEAT HAS A GOOD SUPPLY OF FAT,
AND IT TASTES REFRESH-ING AND NATURAL
ヒヒッ

ゴリゴリゴリゴリ
FIRST, PULL OFF THE SKIN TO GET THE CRYSTAL-WHITE MEAT,
IT DOESN'T STINK LIKE NORMAL FISH EITHER,
THEN GRIND IT--
THAT'S WHY IT CAN BE MADE INTO ANYTHING YOU WANT.
COM-PLETELY GRIND IT!?
THAT'S RIGHT, MEI LI, PLEASE LEND ME A HAND TOO
OKAY !!
ゴリゴリ
BUT, THERE ARE LOTS OF WHITE FISH SPECIES, FOR EXAMPLE FLOUNDER.
SO WHY SPECIFI-CALLY USE CATFISH ?
THAT'S BECAUSE I WAS BORN IN THE MOUNTAINS AND I USE FRESH-WATER FISHES BETTER.
ペチャペチャ
ヘチャ
DONE !!
IT'S ELASTIC ENOUGH FOR NOW
MEI LI, COULD YOU GET ME TEN CHICKEN EGGS PLEASE?
CHICKEN EGGS ?

AH, I CAN DO THIS TOO!!
THIS WAY YOU CAN GET RID OF THE EGG WHITE LEAVING JUST THE YOLK
トロロ～ン
ぷるっ
!!
トロ～ン
I'LL HELP YOU !!
カシ
カミ
EH !?
HAHA-- WRONG--- !!
YOU PLAN TO USE EGG YOLK TO INCREASE ELASTICITY OF THE CATFISH AND TO INCREASE THE FLAVOUR!!
I GET IT!!
EH--- WHY?
THE EGG WHITE!
I'M PLANNING TO USE--

THE LIGHT TASTE OF EGG WHITE IS NEEDED.
TO PRESERVE THE REFRESHING TASTE OF CATFISH,
JUST THINK OF IT AS SOMETHING LIKE A KAMABOKO
KAMABOKO ?
THE ELASTICITY IS PERFECT NOW
OKAY,
OH REALLY
I STILL DON'T GET WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO DO!
INTO THE STEAMING HOT WOK,
FIRST PUT THE ALCOHOL--
COME TO THINK OF IT---
AND BURN OUT THE EXCESS WATER
WHAT'S THAT POT OF ALCOHOL DOING THERE, MAO?

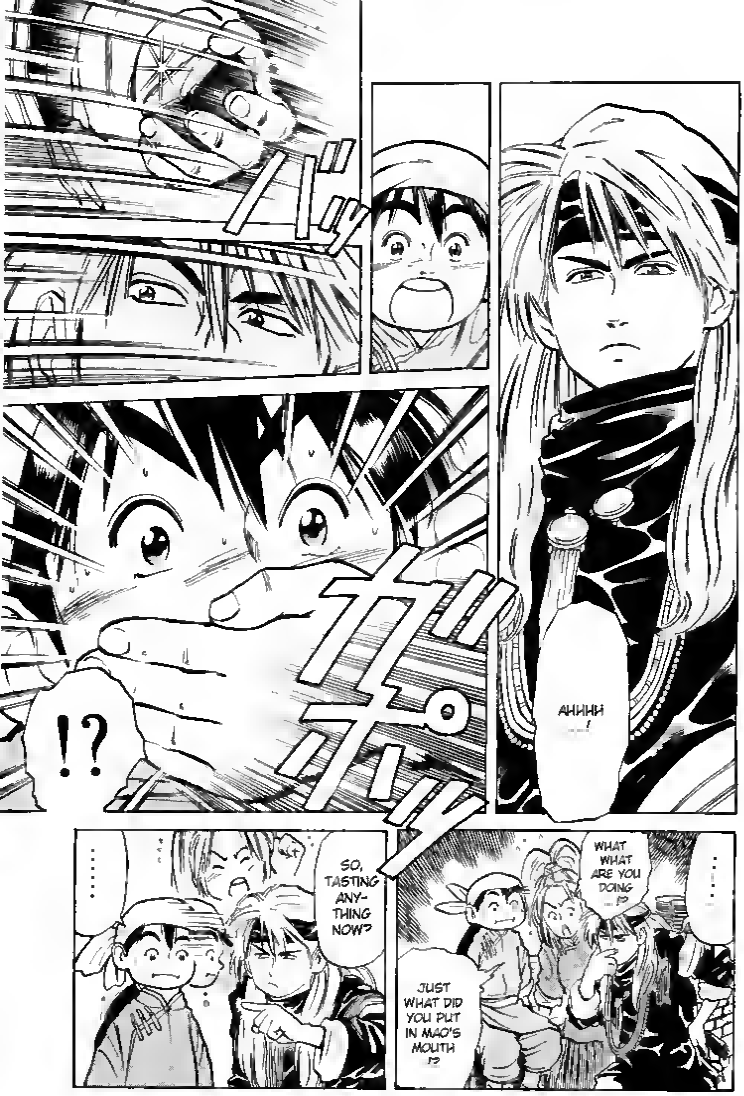
THE FLAVOUR OF THE NOODLES ...
COMES FROM MAIZE, EH?
MAKING THE LAST ADJUST-MENTS TO FLAVOUR
INTO THE GROUND FISH,
THEN POUR THE BURNING ALCOHOL
AND ALCOHOL COMES FROM MAIZE AS WELL,
THAT'S WHY I DECIDED TO USE BURNING ALCOHOL TO ADJUST THE FLAVOUR.
IN A CLOTH WITH LOTS OF HOLES ?
YOU'RE WRAPPING IT UP
THE FUN'S ABOUT TO START NOW!

!!
"RAW NOODLES," COMPLETE!
AWE-SO-ME--!!
ALTHOUGH IT'S STILL RAW, YOU OUGHT TO TRY IT FIRST, MEI LI
IT LOOKS REALLY WHITE, KINDA PRETTY ACTUALLY
BUT WHEN I THINK THAT IT'S MADE FROM STRANGE-LOOKING CATFISH I
DON'T WORRY!! I'M SURE IT'LL TASTE GOOD!!

THIS HAS... SUCH AS STRANGE NEW FLAVOUR ...!!
.....!!
THERE'S NO "FISHY" FLAVOUR AND NO "MUD" FLAVOUR OF NORMAL FRESHWATER FISH,
INSTEAD, THERE'S A SWEET SCENT OF FISH FAT!!
THERE'S ALSO ANOTHER ENTICING FLAVOUR, WHICH IS CREATED BY THE ALCOHOL USED!!
THE BEST THING ABOUT IT, HOWEVER, IS THAT IT DOESN'T HAVE THE FLOURY TASTE OF NORMAL NOODLES,
ITS TEXTURE IS BETTER THAN MOST NOODLES!
IT'S AWESOME, MAO!!
.....!?
.....
!?
!?

ARE ARE YOU OKAY? MAO... YOU LOOK UNWELL
U-WAHH !!
DID I SAY SOME-THING WRONG?
WHA WHAT'S WRONG!? WHAT'S WRONG, WHAT'S WRONG!?
うわあああああ
AH, FLAVOUR!! NO FLA-VOUR---!!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN,
IT TASTES WONDER-FUL!
NO, I MEANT, MY TONGUE ISN'T WORKING,
EH!?
I CAN'T TASTE A THING ---!!

EVERY-ONE ELSE ..
IS DOING PRETTY WELL
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, MAO !?
.....
ジュオオオオ
ゴゴゴゴゴゴ
IT'S NOT WORKING!! NO MATTER WHAT I EAT, I CAN'T TASTE IT!!
MY SENSE OF TASTE IS COMPLETELY GONE!!
THEN... WHAT SHOULD WE DO
AT SUCH AN IMPOR-TANT TIME, WHY---!?
MAO'S BEST ABILITY IS HIS SENSE OF TASTE, IF HE LOSES THAT, EVERYTHING WILL BE OVER---!!
うわあああああ
NOOOOOO
いやあああああ
うわあああああ
UWA AA-AH
OPEN YOUR MOUTH!
WHY ?

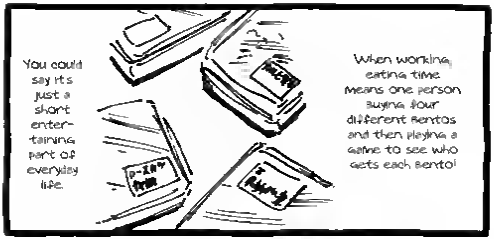

バッ
ガッ
!?
AHHH!
ガッ
WHAT WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
JUST WHAT DID YOU PUT IN MAO'S MOUTH!?
SO, TASTING ANY-THING NOW?

HUH?
!!
MAO ...!!
HEE-EEE-EEEH !!
SO SALTY ---!
UWAH ---

THIS THIS IS ...!!
THE HALITE MY SISTER BROUGHT BACK FROM SZECHUAN!!
WHAT, WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU DOING
DIDN'T YOU JUST SAY, "SO SALTY," A MOMENT AGO?
AH... IT'S BACK
MAO !!
IT'S BACK !!
MY TASTE-BUDS ARE BACK--!!
SO JUST THEN
WHAT DID YOU DO?
THIS ...
FOUND THIS HIDDEN UNDER YOUR HAIR, ON YOUR NECK
WHAT...!? A NEEDLE ...!?
THE PLACE THAT CONTROLS YOUR TASTE IS CLOSE TO YOUR EAR,
AND THIS NEEDLE NUMBED THAT SECTION, MAKING YOUR TASTEBUDS TEMPORARILY DISABLED
!!

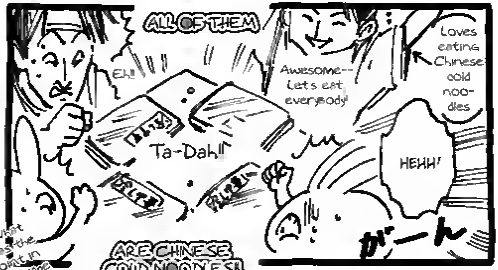
WH... WHY WOULD THEY DO THAT...!! WHO WAS IT...!!
I DON'T THINK IT'S A COINCIDENCE
IT'S LIKELY THAT SOMEONE INTENTIONALLY
PUT IT ON THERE, WITHOUT YOU NOTICING
I DON'T KNOW... ALL I CAN SAY IS...
BE CAREFUL,
チン
YOU'RE SUCH AN EASY TARGET...
EVERYONE WANTS TO WIN IN THIS COMPETITION AND SOME WILL DO ANYTHING TO WIN...!!

WHY ARE YOU SO NICE TO ME!?
YOU...
HOLD... HOLD ON A SEC!!
MR FEI!!
.....
I OWE SOMETHING TO YOUR MOM, PAI THE FAIRY OF CUISINE
THAT'S... BECAUSE.
EH...?
AND,
IT'S ALSO TO SEE WHICH IS THE BETTER ONE OF US!!


You could say it's just a short entertaining part of everyday life.
When working, eating time means one person buying four different bentos and then playing a game to see who gets each bento!

long live chinese cold noodles!

~ ACT FIVE ~



中華一番!

If you loved this series and enjoyed reading it, please support the mangaka by buying the original copy or a translated version when it becomes available in your country.

This is a FREE SCANLATION done by CKM SCANS

translation notes

SEEMS LIKE THERE'LL BE A LOT TODAY, SO I'LL PUT ALL OF THEM AT THE END...

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

White fish, it's actually like a fishing term and sometimes it's called "whitefish", however, I separated the word to avoid confusion because the term "whitefish" is also given to another species of fish (I think)

It's claimed that there's a lot of fat (by the manga not me), which I don't know about, but I'll post nutritional information - found off wikipedia haha

Calories 265
Fat(g) 1.160
Carbohydrates(g) 0
Fibers(g) 0
Protein(g) 37.80
Cholesterol(mg) 119

Kamaboko, as its name suggests, originates from Japan (it's a little unusual in China...) It's like a loaf of ground fish meat (known as surimi) and you can chop it up and dip it in sauce and whatever else you want, to eat it.

That's basically what Mao mode before making his catfish-noodles.

Note.
Typesetter liked this image of Mao from the 4-koma page and used it for the translation notes page.
^^

Halite, the cube-like thing that Fei put in Mao's mouth, is the crystalised form of sodium chloride (table salt) It's more commonly known as rock salt, I reckon, but I think Mao should use more professional terms when he can. To use in cooking, you grind it first (or dissolve it in water?)

Chinese cold noodles (from the 4-koma), Japanese = "soumen", Korean = "naengmyeon"

Chinese people call it "Liang Mian", but...not many people on the internet know that and not a lot of restaurants call it that. And yeah, most importantly, "cold noodles" are really "noodles that are served cold"
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

CHINATOWN KM

(CKM SCANS)

Translator: xah
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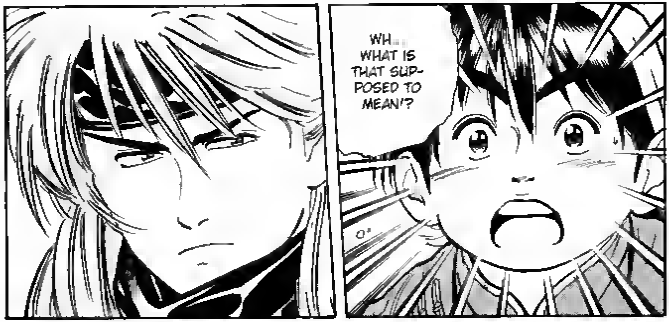
中華一番!

chapter 28: urgency

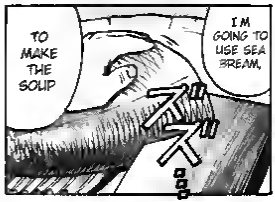


MR FEI
YOU SHOULD HURRY UP AND GET BACK TO MAKING YOUR DISH FOR THIS COMPETITION
LIM
JUST IGNORE IT
UHH... YEAH
DO YOUR BEST!!
ANYWAY, CONGRATS ON GETTING YOUR TASTEBUDS BACK!!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT HIM
MR. FEI
JUST WHO ARE YOU
SHOULDN'T YOU BE PUTTING YOUR EFFORTS INTO WHAT YOU SHOULD BE DOING . . .?
AND IT WAS HE WHO GAVE ME COURAGE
ONLY ONE MAN DESERVES THE TITLE "INCOMPARABLE".
HE WAS THE ONE WHO TOLD ME THE MEANING OF "INCOMPARABLE."
AND JUST THEN...
HE STOPPED SOMEONE'S PLOT AGAINST ME...
SOMEONE INTENTIONALLY PUT IT THERE WHEN YOU DIDN'T NOTICE

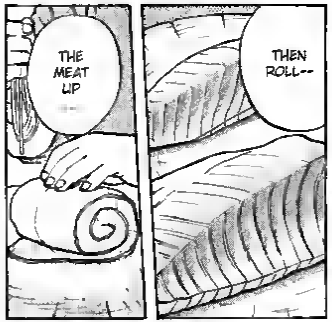
!?
HAS SUCCESS-FULLY MADE "NOODLES WITH NO FLOUR"
THE USE OF CATFISH
NEXT IS SOUP MAO
MAO, FISH AGAIN !?
GOOD !
AH-- !!
ビチ
ビチ
ジャバ
ジャバ
YAAH

THIS TIME, I'D LIKE TO USE A SALT-WATER FISH!!

THIS TIME IT'S SEA BREAM!?
THAT'S RIGHT, BUT MORE SPECIFICALLY, THE KING OF FISH THE RED SEA BREAM!!


I'M GOING TO USE SEA BREAM, TO MAKE THE SOUP

FIRST, SEPARATE THE HEAD AND BONES FROM THE MEAT


THE MEAT UP
THEN ROLL--

THEN USE THE FISH HEAD AND BONES TO MAKE THE SOUP

EH ? THIS SHAPE SEEMS FAMILIAR
THEN, TIE THEM UP WITH KITE STRING
SZE-CHUAN SPE-CIAL-TY
"FISH SAUCE"
AND WHAT'S THAT SUP-POSED TO BE?
THEN ...
USING WHAT SIS BROUGHT ---
T/N: FISH SAUCE - SAUCE MADE BY FERMENTING FISH. JAPANESE HAVE SHOTTSURU. THAI HAVE NAM PLA
SO A LOT OF PEOPLE IN SZE-CHUAN PUT FISH SAUCE INTO THEIR COOKING,
WHILE THINKING OF THE WILD SCENT OF THE SEA WIND
TO PUT SEAFOOD FLAVOUR INTO SZECHUAN'S FOREST FLAVOUR CREATES A VERY SPECIAL TASTE,
四川省
成都
重慶
SZECHUAN IS TOO FAR FROM THE SEA, SO IT'S UNUSUAL TO EAT SEAFOOD, GET IT?
FISH AGAIN ?
IT'S A SAUCE MADE FROM CARP OR OTHER FRESHWA-TER FISH.

YEAH
YOU TIED THE MEAT WITH KITE STRING TO STOP IT FROM GOING MUSHY, RIGHT?
TO PROPERLY ADJUST THE FLAVOUR OF THE SEA BREAM.
HERE, USE FISH SAUCE
NOW POUR THE SAUCE INTO THE FISH HEAD AND BONES SOUP
THE FISH SAUCE IS FULL OF THE SEA BREAM'S DELICIOUS FLAVOUR
GOOD...!! ALMOST DONE WITH THIS
NOT YET NOT YET
IT'S DONE !!
COOK THE "NOODLES" AND ADD THEM TO THE SOUP
CUT THE COOKED SEA BREAM INTO SLICES--
THE SOUP'S DONE NOW !!

ADD THEM TO THE SOUP---
THEN AT LAST, IT'S COMPLETE !!
I SEE!! THAT'S WHY YOU "BARBECUED" IT !!
FISH, FISH, FISH, EVERYTHING WAS MADE OUT OF FISH!! THIS BOWL OF "NOODLES" LOOKS DELICIOUS...!!
HEY MAO, MAY I TRY SOME?
THAT'S RIGHT!!
FEEL FREE TO!

THE RICHNESS OF THE SEA BREAM MEAT IS EVEN MORE DELICIOUS!!
THE SOUP IS FULL OF THE ELEGANT TASTE OF FISH AND THE "CATFISH NOODLES" TASTE REFRESHING TOO!!
YEAH!! IT'S DELICIOUS!!
SO... HOW IS IT, MEI LI?
THERE'S SOMETHING THAT I HOPE YOU WON'T GET ANGRY WHEN I SAY IT...
BUT... MAO
!?
OKAY!! IS THAT THE ONLY PROBLEM?
THERE'S NO ELASTICITY WHEN YOU EAT THEM, WHICH IS REALLY THE BEST PART OF NOODLES
BECAUSE THESE "NOODLES" ARE MADE FROM THE SOFT MEAT OF CATFISH

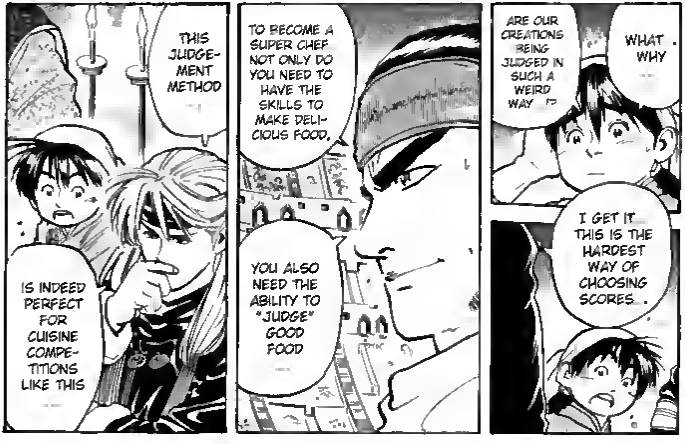
CATFISH NOODLES !!
OKAY, LET'S DO THIS AGAIN--
ABOUT THAT, I'VE ALREADY THOUGHT OF SOMETHING TO OVERCOME IT.
ドサッ
ミシミシ
ピンピン
ガチャ
ガチャ

T/N
LEI HUA-SAMA -SO ?
THERE SURE ARE A LOT OF
STRANGE PEOPLE, AGAIN, THIS YEAR!
THERE'S NOT MUCH TIME LEFT NOW, GENERAL* LEI HUA
EVEN I CAN'T GUESS WHAT THEY'LL MAKE
MAO!! THAT WOMAN'S LIGHTING GUNPOWDER!!
EH!? WHAT'S THAT STUFF WRAPPED UP IN A NET ...!?
ボフッ

!?
WOW IT'S "NOODLES" !!
THE DOUGH WAS SQUEEZED THROUGH THE NET AND CAME OUT AS NOODLES!!
SO SHE WAS USING GUNPOWDER TO SQUEEZE THE DOUGH THROUGH!!
WOW... I NEVER SEEN IT BEING DONE LIKE THAT BEFORE !!
That's really a bit too reckless
SFX BOMB!

IT'S ALREADY PAST MIDNIGHT NOW
NOW, FOR EACH OF YOUR "NOODLES WITH NO FLOUR" ...
JUDGING BEGINS !!
!?
PEER ASSESSMENT ...!?
Doo
THE JUDGEMENT METHOD USED WILL BE, "PEER ASSESSMENT" !!
YOU MUST EAT EACH OTHER'S DISHES,
AND THEN ACCORDINGLY GIVE A SCORE
IN OTHER WORDS---

YOU ARE NOT JUST COMPETITORS, YOU ARE "JUDGES" AT THE SAME TIME!!
!!


THIS JUDGE-MENT METHOD ...
IS INDEED PERFECT FOR CUISINE COMPE-TITIONS LIKE THIS ...
TO BECOME A SUPER CHEF NOT ONLY DO YOU NEED TO HAVE THE SKILLS TO MAKE DELI-CIOUS FOOD,
YOU ALSO NEED THE ABILITY TO "JUDGE" GOOD FOOD ...
ARE OUR CREATIONS BEING JUDGED IN SUCH A WEIRD WAY !?
WHAT . WHY ...
I GET IT. THIS IS THE HARDEST WAY OF CHOOSING SCORES .

NOW, PLEASE USE YOUR TONGUE TO THE BEST OF YOUR ABILITIES AND JUDGE!!
EACH PERSON CAN GIVE A MAXIMUM SCORE OF 10 TO ANOTHER!!
FIRST, LET'S HAVE ZHI LIN'S NOODLES
YEAH...
.....!!
I WAS ALWAYS JUST THINKING OF HOW TO IMPROVE MY COOKING, THAT'S ALL...
BUT, IF YOU CAN'T CORRECTLY JUDGE OTHER PEOPLE'S COOKING, IT REALLY IS IMPOSSIBLE TO BE A TOP CHEF...
SUCH BLACK NOODLES...!!
UWAH...!!

THE BLACK COLOUR,
IS FROM THE INK IN THE SQUID, TO WHICH I ALSO ADDED WINE AND OTHER FLAVOURINGS.
THE RESULT OF FRYING RICE FLOUR
MY "NOODLES" ARE REALLY ...
THESE ARE "SQUID RICE NOODLES"!
SO, EVERYONE, PLEASE TRY MY CREATION!
BUT I USED RICE FLOUR, SO IT FULFILS THE REQUIREMENT OF "NOODLES WITH NO FLOUR."
NOODLES ARE SUPPOSED TO BE MADE FROM (WHEAT) FLOUR ...
RICE AND SQUID INK HUH ...
HMPH ...
.....
EH ...!?

!?
ガブガブガブ
OH OH MY GOD !!
WHAT A RICH FLAVOUR, IT'S LIKE MAGIC !!
CAN'T... C N'T STOP ...!!
ガブ
ガブ
WAH... WHAT A SCARY FLAVOUR, SO PRO-FOUND !!

……!!
ガタッ
ペチャッ
ペチャッ
HOW IS THIS STUFF EVEN EDIBLE…!?
DON'T JOKE WITH ME, YOU DAMN WOMAN!!
ワナワナ

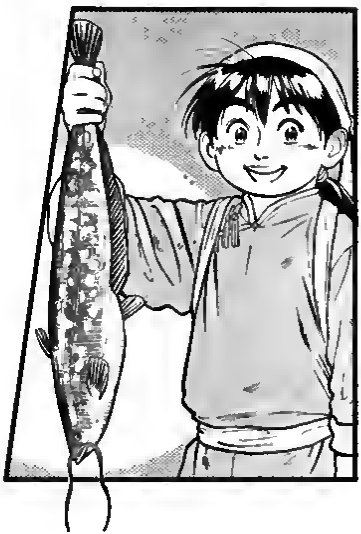
M—
MISS ZHI LIN, YOU
MAO !!
HOW DARE YOU DO THE THING THAT ALL CHEFS ARE FORBIDDEN TO DO !!
ベッ
ヘチャッ

ヒソ
ヒソ
……
SOME-
ONE
LIKE
YOU
…
DOESN'T
HAVE THE
RIGHT TO
BE A CHEF
!!!

A quick translation note:
Sea bream...this character seems to translate into both "(red) snapper" and "sea bream"...I don't know what the difference is, but it seems that the preferred translation (online) is "sea bream"...

Do I need to explain anything else today (:/)? I hope not!

(Lots of translation notes in the next chapter(s) though!)



中華一番!

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CHINATOWN KM

(CKM SCANS)

Translator: xah
Proofreader: flameshaft
Cleaner: RavieSeeker
Typesetter: flameshaft
QC: Hidaka Ichirou

The credits xD

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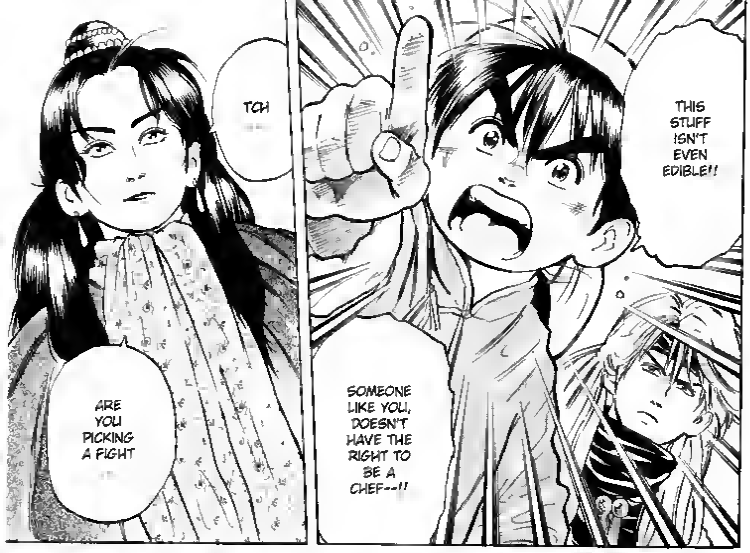

中華一番!

chapter 29. the elasticity of the noodles

POPPY SEED!!
THAT IS,
SOME-THING ....
SHE SHOULDN'T HAVE ADDED ...!?
YOU MEAN, THE SEED OF THE OPIUM POPPY, WHICH THE POW-ERFUL DRUG OPIUM CAN BE EXTR CTED FROM...!?
!!
EH ...!?
ITS RECIPIENTS BECOME OBSESSED WITH IT
IF ITS JUICE IS ADDED TO FOOD,
THE JUICE OF THE RAW POPPY SEED CONTAINS SEVERAL HARMFUL BUT ADDICTIVE COMPOUNDS
....

YOU'RE THE WORST CHEF IN THE WORLD!!
YOU DARE TO PUT SUCH INGREDIENT INTO YOUR FOOD,
YOU'LL GRADUALLY BE POISONED BY IT
HOWEVER, IF YOU EAT TOO MUCH,
はッ
バサッ
!!
!!

AS EXPEC-TED ...
LET ME TELL YOU THIS,
MASTER LEI HUA
THIS WOMAN NOT ONLY DARED TO USE DRUGS IN HER COOKING,
SHE ALSO USED THIS NEEDLE TO NUMB MAO'S TASTEBUDS. SHE REALLY IS UNFOR-GIVABLE !!
IT WAS YOU !!
NOT ONLY DID YOU ADD SOME-THING YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE,
BUT YOU ALSO USED UNDERHANDED METHODS TO HURT OTHERS SUCH ACTIONS ARE AN UNFORGIVABLE BETRAYAL TO THE *ARENA OF FLAVOURS !!
IS THIS TRUE ZHI LIN ?!
.....

ZHI LIN, YOU HAVE LOST YOUR PARTICIPATION RIGHT IN THIS COMPETITION--
ALSO, I STRIP YOU OF YOUR RIGHT TO BE A CHEF AND FROM NOW ON, YOU ARE BANNED FROM STAYING IN GUANGZHOU.
ガッ
!!
TAKE HER AWAY !!
HMPH... WHAT SUPER CHEF TRIALS ...!!
USING YOUR BEST ABILITY TO LET OTHERS EAT YOUR FOOD,
THAT'S THE TRUE AMBITION OF A CHEF!!
HEY !!
YOU LISTENING, LEI HUA !?
LEI HUA !!
ドクン
ドクン
PUT ALL YOUR HEART AND YOUR THOUGHTS,
INTO MAKING THE MOST DELICIOUS FOOD YOU CAN!!

AS A CHEF, MY TRUE AMBITION--
IS TO BRING HAPPINESS TO OTHERS !!
YET WHAT THAT WOMAN MADE, WOULD ONLY BRING MISFORTUNE TO OTHERS
WHEN ONE EATS DELICIOUS FOOD, THE FEELING OF HAPPINESS JUST FLOATS UP
GOOD FOOD SHOULD BE ABLE TO DIRECT OTHERS TO A HAPPY FUTURE
CONTINUE THE TASTING SESSION !!
NEXT, WE'LL HAVE DAN!!
HMPH...I BET THIS IS THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE SEEN THIS
THESE ARE CALLED "CAT EAR NOODLES."

IT'S A SPECIAL FLOUR PRODUCT ORIGINATED FROM SHANXI I WAS TRAVELLING THERE WHEN I MET A MASTER WHO WAS KIND ENOUGH TO TEACH ME HOW TO MAKE THEM.
Beijing
TAIYUAN
SHANXI PROVINCE
LOESS PLATEAU
AFTER CAREFULLY KNEADING THE FLOUR INTO DOUGH
(WHEAT) FLOUR ?
THEN, USING YOUR THUMB AND HIGH LEVEL TECHNIQUES, THESE CAT-EAR NOODLES ARE CREATED
AFTER FRYING, I ADDED PAN LIN RESTAURANT'S TOP SECRET COOKING METHOD.
ALRIGHTY, TRY THEM
THAT'S MY "NOODLES THAT AREN'T NOODLES." NOT ONLY IS THE SHAPE DIFFERENT, THE TEXTURE IS DIFFERENT TOO
HEY, WHAT'S WRONG ?
HURRY UP AND EAT
YOU'RE STUPID MAN
!?

T/N: Noodles that aren't noodles • The pun.. changed it to the other meaning for consistency. Poor guy, he misunderstood "noodles with no flour" for "noodles that aren't noodles" Too bad Japanese/Chinese have the same character for "noodles" and "flour"

YOUR FOOD ISN'T EVEN WORTH EATTING,
YOU'VE ALREADY BEEN DISQUALIFIED !!
!?
YOU, WHAT DID YOU SAY!!
WHAT THE HELL DO YOU MEAN BY THAT !?
YOU USED (WHEAT) FLOUR,
YOU JUST CHANGED THE SHAPE OF THE NOODLES AND YOU DARE TO CALL IT "NOODLES WITH NO FLOUR." THAT'S REALLY JUST TOO FUNNY !!
YOUR WAY OF THINKING IS WAY TOO CHILDISH!!
THAT'S RIGHT.
!!
JUST CHANGING THE SHAPE OF THE NOODLES THAT EASY AND EFFORTLESS COOKING YOU DID ISN'T ENOUGH TO PASS THE SUPER CHEF TRIALS AT ALL
ALSO, YOU SHOULDN'T HIDE YOUR LACK OF IMAGINATION WITH YOUR SKILL.
IMAGINATION AND SKILL ARE THE KEY ABILITIES TO MAKING GOOD FOOD AS A CHEF ...!

I FAILED AGAIN...
THIS IS THE THIRD TIME...
ヒュウウウ
BUT YOU CAN COME BACK IN FOUR YEARS' TIME!!
DAN!! THERE IS NO NEED FOR YOUR DISH TO BE JUDGED,
NEXT IS ...
HAN !!
FOR THE SOUP, I ALSO ADDED SEVERAL BEATEN EGGS
TRY IT, I PROMISE IT'LL TASTE GOOD!!
I CUT THE MEAT ACCORDING TO ITS FOLD, INTO THE SHAPE OF NOODLES
!?
DALU NOODLES ...?

スルルルル
トローン
UWAH !!
THE BEATEN EGGS COVER THE SOUP, SO YOU CAN'T SEE THE NOODLES
SO THESE ARE "NOODLES" MADE FROM BEEF, HUH ..!!
A A AMAZING !!
NOODLES MADE OF BEEF HAVE A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT, TOTALLY ORIGINAL TEXTURE WHEN YOU EAT THEM!!
..!! ALTHOUGH IT'S A PITY, IT'S REALLY DELICIOUS .!!
IT DOESN'T LOOK SPECIAL, BUT IT REALLY IS DELIGHTFUL TO EAT ..!!
THE FROTHINESS OF THE SOUP ALLOWS THE NOODLES TO BE EASILY SUCKED INTO ONE'S MOUTH
WHENEVER YOU BITE DOWN, THE RICH SOUP IN THE BEEF NOODLES SEEP OUT AND MERGE WITH THE BEATEN EGGS.
CREATING A HEAVENLY FLAVOUR!!
ズボボボ

FEI !!
AWE-SOME !!
I CAN FINALLY EAT MR. FEI'S CREATION !!
I've been waiting for ages!
MAO-- YOU SHOULDN'T SAY THAT SORT OF STUFF AT A TIME LIKE THIS--
I GROUND POTATOES INTO POWDER AND USED THAT AS FLOUR FOR MY NOODLES,
AND THEN ADDED THEM TO COLD SOUP
WOW-- NOODLES MADE FROM POTATOES ARE TRANS-PARENT HUH...
HM...? THERE'S NO STEAM AT ALL
Cold noodles huh.

……!!
ズルズル
クッチャ
クッチャ
チュルルルル
WOW....!! THESE NOODLES ARE REALLY CHEWY!!
MY FISH NOODLES AREN'T EVEN NEARLY AS GOOD AS THIS!!
HEY MR. FEI,
WHY ARE THESE POTATO NOODLES SO ELASTIC?
SEVERAL PEPPERS WERE ADDED TO THIS SOUP, SO THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE UNBEARABLY HOT,
NOODLES MADE FROM GROUND POTATOES HAVE A VERY GOOD TEXTURE
POTATOES ARE FOUND IN ABUNDANCE IN THE KOREAN PENINSULA AND THERE, NOODLES ARE OFTEN MADE FROM POTATO.
BUT WITH THIS COOL, REFRESHING SOUP, AN AMAZING COMPATIBLE FLAVOUR WAS MADE ...!!

T/N: dapchae..?

AFTER SQUISHING THE GROUND POTATO INTO A DOUGH-LIKE SUBSTANCE, SQUEEZE IT THROUGH A NOODLE MACHINE AND THEN IMMEDIATELY BOIL IT IN WATER UNTIL IT COOKS
THEN, SWIFTLY TAKE OUT THE NOODLES, AND PLACE THEM IN COLD WATER - THAT'S HOW THE ELASTICITY IS CREATED
IF WARM SOUP IS USED, THE ELASTICITY WILL DISAPPEAR SO I USED COLD SOUP INSTEAD.
WOW--!!
THAT'S AWESOME--!!
I DON'T GET WHY THESE NOODLES...
モグ
モグ…
HAVE A SLIGHT SWEET TASTE... WHAT IS IT...
MEI LI, THESE NOODLES ARE REALLY DELICIOUS.
THERE'S EVEN PUMPKIN IN THEM!
!!
I... I ONLY PUT A LITTLE BIT IN,
JUST TO ENHANCE THE HIDDEN, BUT SPECIAL FLAVOUR OF THE NOODLES...!!
YET HE...!!
So cold and so yummy

LAST UP!! MAO !!
"NOODLES WITH NO FLOUR."
MY NOODLES ARE MADE FROM CATFISH!!
NO MATTER HOW GOOD THE FLAVOUR IS,
"NOODLES" THAT DON'T HAVE ELASTICITY ARE A HUGE DISADVANTAGE
KANSUI DOESN'T WORK ON FISH SO
CATFISH HUH
BRAT... THIS LOOKS LIKE THE END OF THE COMPETITION FOR YA TODAY
FOR YOU HAVE MADE AN UNFORGIVABLE MISTAKE
WILL YOU BE ALL RIGHT, MAO...!?
THERE'S A HUGE PROBLEM WITH YOUR NOODLES THAT IS, NO ELASTICITY AT ALL

T/N:Kansui Refer to a few chapters back - "Chinese Lye Water", added to noodles to gain "elasticity" (chewy texture), to make the food feel better in your mouth

I ADMIRE YOU FOR GETTING UP TO HERE,
SO I'LL JUST TRY YOUR PRODUCT...!!
LIU MAO HSING
13 YEARS OLD

WH... WHAT !!
THIS... THIS TEXTURE ...
NO MATTER HOW I CHEW IT, IT DOESN'T FEEL LIKE CATFISH AT ALL ...!!
HOW COULD NOODLES MADE FROM CATFISH HAVE ANY ELASTICITY AT ALL!?
...!!
!!
THE... THE NOODLES ...
HAVE A CORE ...!!

THAT'S SQUID. I FIRST CUT IT INTO STRANDS,
THEN WRAPPED EACH ONE BY ONE UP WITH CATFISH MEAT. IN OTHER WORDS, I ADDED A CORE TO THE TEXTURELESS CATFISH
ALL THESE NOODLES..
ONE BY ONE!?
THESE NOODLES ARE MADE FROM CATFISH AND SQUID, THE SOUP IS MADE FROM SEA BREAM.
THEREFORE ALL OF THESE INGREDIENTS ARE AQUATIC CREATURES, HENCE THE NAME, "SEAFOOD NOODLES!"
EVEN IN THIS KIND OF SITUATION,
THIS GUY REALLY IS UNPREDICTABLE...!!
FOR THE NOODLES.. HE SPECIFICALLY CHOSE CATFISH, THAT HAS NO MUD TASTE NO STRONG TASTE AND AS FOR THE SEA BREAM...
THE DELICIOUS SOUP THAT CAN ONLY BE MADE FROM BOILING SEA BREAM WAS SPECIFICALLY CHOSEN TO BOIL TRUST WITH THE CATFISH! WELL, THERE'S REALLY NO FAULTS WITH THIS DISH.
HE CAN COME UP WITH AN OUTRAGEOUS INVENTION LIKE THIS, YET PULL IT OFF SUCCESSFULLY...!!

OKAY, TASTING PERIOD OVER !!
NOW BEGIN, "PEER ASSESS-MENT" !!
APART FROM YOURSELF, EVERYONE MUST GRADE THE OTHER TWO CONTES-TANTS. THE HIGHEST POS-SIBLE GRADE IS TEN.
PLEASE WAIT HERE PATIENT-LY.
BEFORE ANNOUN-CING THE SCORE,
MAO
AW MAN
THIS KIND OF WAITING IS THE MOST PAINFUL
.....

NOW, WE SHALL ANNOUNCE EACH CONTESTANT'S SCORE!!
PLEASE LOOK AT THE MAIN WALL !!
ドン
邢十
HAN - 10
昴九
MAO - 9
飛九
FEI - 9
EH !?

Translation Notes (A few, so bear with me)

Cat Ear Noodles: They do exist!! Google it though, it's not really significant so I won't go into details, but it's a bit like orecchiette (Italian)

Dalu Noodles: It's a bit like "noodles in sauce" I guess? It's a popular dish in China. It looks like ankake soba to me (Japanese counterpart I guess)

Opium: This is more for reference but since it's set in China, I might like to add that righteous Chinese people in history hate opium to the max, because it led to massive poverty (but that's decades after when this story is set) And don't add drugs to food, it's expensive for you in the long run too, I dreaded translating this bit X_X

Seafood noodles: A lot of the time, not all of it's ingredients come from the "sea". They can come from the river too!!

I think I covered the rest throughout this chapter :D Next chap to come soon hopefully.

中華一番!

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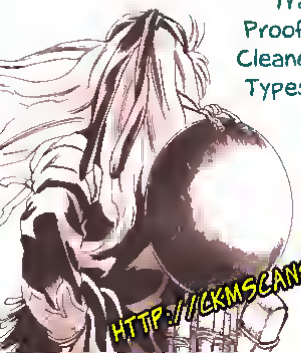

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中華一番!
Chapter 30 The Faraway Goal
FEI 9
MAO 9
HAN 10
MAO, NINE!!
HAN, TEN!!
FEI, NINE!!

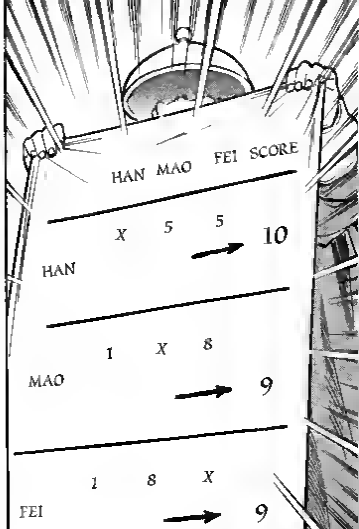
I-I'M FIRST...!!
PLEASE COME FOR-WARD!!
ドギッ
HAN!!

.....!!
EAST FOREST RESTAURANT'S HAN !!
YOUR "BEEF NOODLES" WERE INDEED WELL MADE !!
IT FULFILLED THE CRITERIA OF "NOODLES WITH NO FLOUR",
AND ITS TRULY CREATIVE FLAVOUR CAME FROM ITS SIMPLICITY
YOU PERFORMED SPLENDIDLY, FROM THE PRELIMINARIES TO THE OFFICIAL TEST, PROVING YOUR EXCELLENT SKILLS
FIN FINALLY
IT'S FINALLY ME !!
ドゥンドゥン

HAH YOU'VE DONE WELL
YOU MAY LEAVE NOW
!?
.....
EH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN, MASTER LEI HUA?
DON'T YOU GET IT?
ALTHOUGH IT'S A PITY, YOU HAVEN'T PASSED THE SUPER CHEF TRIALS...
NO SPECIAL CERE-MONY OF SOME SORT...?
PLEASE HURRY UP AND GO.

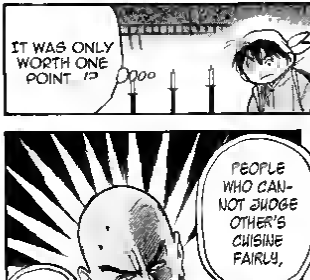
YOU DAMN FOOL!!
TELL ME, HOW COULD I NOT PASS!?
WAIT...!!
I SCORED BETTER THAN THOSE TWO...!!
PLEASE THINK CAREFULLY WHY THE JUDGING METHOD CHOSEN WAS "PEER ASSESSMENT"!!
!?
LOOK AT THESE SCORES
!?

MAO AND FEI BOTH GAVE YOU A SCORE OF FIVE,


HAN MAO FEI SCORE
X 5 5
10
HAN
1 X 8
9
MAO
1 8 X
9
FEI

ONE POINT EACH!
BUT TO THEM, YOU JUST GAVE

IT WAS ONLY WORTH ONE POINT
JUST ONE POINT FOR WHAT I MADE


DO NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE A SUPER CHEF
PEOPLE WHO CANNOT JUDGE OTHER'S CUISINE FAIRLY,

BLINDED YOUR EYES, AND SO YOU GAVE THE OTHER TWO UNREASONABLY LOW SCORES
THE DESIRE TO PASS THE TRIALS,
1
1

PLEASE...
COME BACK IN FOUR YEARS!!
ガッ
!!
……
!!
ゴゴゴ
UWAAA-AAAH
おおお
おおお
お
FOUR YEARS LATER
I HAVE TO WIN !!

THIS IS THE LAST TRIAL FOR YOU TWO...!!
OK, JUST THE TWO OF YOU LEFT.
THE LAST TRIAL?
SO FOR THE LAST TRIAL,
YOU HAVE SHOWN THAT YOU CAN JUDGE OTHER PEOPLE'S COOKING CORRECTLY AND FAIRLY...
PLEASE GRADE YOUR OWN DISH.

!!
MY OWN DISH...!!
SELF ASSESS-MENT!?
THE LAST TRIAL IS INDEED THE HAR-DEST!!
M-MAO...!!
.....
.....
YOU FIRST, MAO!!
THE HIGHEST SCORE IS TEN!!

TEN POINTS!!

!?
MAO!! IS THAT REALLY OKAY!? TO GIVE YOURSELF FULL MARKS IS JUST...!!
I MAY STILL BE FAR FROM BEING A TOP CHEF.
BUT, I USED MY TONGUE, SKILL AND HEART,
INTO MAKING THE BEST DISH I COULD POSSIBLE MAKE--
AS A CHEF,
I BELIEVE WHAT I MAKE WILL ALWAYS HAVE FULL MARKS, NO MATTER WHAT!!

EXACTLY THE SAME...!!
ガタ...
FEI...WHAT DO YOU THINK...!?
TEN POINTS ...!!
I GIVE MY DISH--
AS EXPECTED FROM MY STRONGEST RIVAL.
WHAT I WANTED TO SAY HAS ALREADY BEEN SAID
VERY WELL
THEN I SHALL ANNOUNCE THE NAMES OF THOSE WHO PASSED THE SUPER CHEF TRIALS

MAO,
FEI,
THIS YEAR'S SUPER CHEF TRIALS, BOTH OF YOU PASS...!!
THERE-FORE, I ANNOU-NCE,
AND BOTH OF YOU DID WELL.
THE PURPOSE OF THE LAST TRIAL WAS TO TEST FOR THE "PRIDE" OF A CHEF,
AND BOTH ARE WORTHY TO PASS THE SUPER CHEF TRIALS
I THINK BOTH OF YOUR NOODLES ARE EXCELLENT

MAO ----!!!
HURRAY!! HURRAY, MEI LI!!
I'M ONE STEP CLOSER TO MOM NOW!!

This kid is really quite amazing
No matter how you look at him,
he's just a sweaty brat, two years younger than me.
Yet he, and the food he makes,
is just so charismatic...
He isn't making food by using his hands---
I believe he has full control whenever he makes food---
So---although this battle is over...
but with his "soul"!!
even I feel that this is simply just the beginning
MR FEI!!

MR FEI!! WHAT DID YOU MEAN WHEN YOU SAID THAT YOU "OWE SOMETHING TO MY MOM"!?
HOW DID YOU KNOW MOM?
WELL
I CAN ONLY TELL YOU THAT I STUDIED UNDER THE SAME PERSON AS YOU DID
EH!?
W-WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
HMPH
IF YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE,
YOU'LL HAVE TO BEAT ME FIRST
EHH!?
HOW UNFAIR ---!!

Guangzhou's Fei and Szechuan's Mao----
You could say that they're two stars left by you--
No way!
Tell me--
My strongest opponent, "Fairy Pai"
you have two extremely young but talented apprentices
One day, when they get older,
Maybe it'll mean a huge leap in Chinese cuisine!
...
FEI!! MAO!!
THAT'S ENOUGH !!
MR FEI, ALTHOUGH IT WAS A DRAW THIS TIME--
YOU MUST CONTINUE TO MAKE THE VERY BEST FOOD; YOU MUSN'T SLACK OFF...!!
AND FOR YOU TWO, IT'S JUST A STAGE OF YOUR JOURNEY.
THE NIGHT TO BE A SUPER CHEF IS JUST A TITLE,

NEXT TIME I DEFINITELY WON'T LOSE TO YOU!!
I WAS WAITING FOR THAT.
YUS...!!
YUS!!
!!
MAO!! EVERY-ONE CAME !!
I have a new goal!!
That is to make yummier, more enticing food than Mr Fei!!
MAO!!
MAO!!

Volume 04 ♡END♡

This volume's chapters were serialized in Shuukan Shounen Magazine 1996 volume 17~24

With the end of the "super chef trials" arc, "Chuuka Ichiban" is pretty much over. This is the first weekly seralisation I've ever had, so I was pretty unfamiliar with some things back then. I apologise beforehand for anything that you haven't been too happy with. I also apologise and thank those who have helped me in this short period of time.

Although "Chuuka Ichiban" is almost over, I, the author, still plan to continue to write about Mao in a second season. I hope all readers won't mind waiting for that.

no—maybe occasionally!
was really quite moving
hm—that movie last time
Geez
I'll have the gluttony set
I can't stand this much longer "
uwah, "I drank too much yesterday "
super low alcohol tolerance.

My assistants and editor often take me to eat Chinese cuisine which is delightful but painful at the same time!

The next oneshot is actually my debut work, and it got the magazine's debut award. It was published in Magazine Fresh. Now, pulling it back out, I reckon back then, I still really liked to write about strange topics.

It's mainly there for those who are bored...it's pretty interesting in a way.

*see translation note at the very end page for more information.

中華一番!

If you loved this series and enjoyed reading it, please support the mangaka by buying the original copy or a translated version when it becomes available in your country.

This is a FREE SCANLATION done by CKM SCANS

Translator's Note

I've been calling this manga "Cooking Master Boy" after the anime adaptation but the real name is "Chuuka Ichiban" The second season is "Shin Chuuka Ichiban" and I'm kinda stumped what to call it after the next volume..."Truth - Cooking Master Boy", "Truth - China's Number One!" or should I just call it "Shin Chuuka Ichiban"? Ah, anyway, there's one more volume of episodic chapters until Shin Chuuka Ichiban where the legendary cooking utensils enter (finally)!!!

Hmm oh yeah, and the oneshot/extra also mentioned on the author's page is King of Tower, which is already scanlated some time ago. It's about building house of cards/card towers. It might be released under "ch28.5" or something like that on manga readers.

Finally, there's another volume completed (slow huh, I agree), but this is the 20th chapter we've scanlated from this series (including the oneshot) from CMB and it has taken a while lol

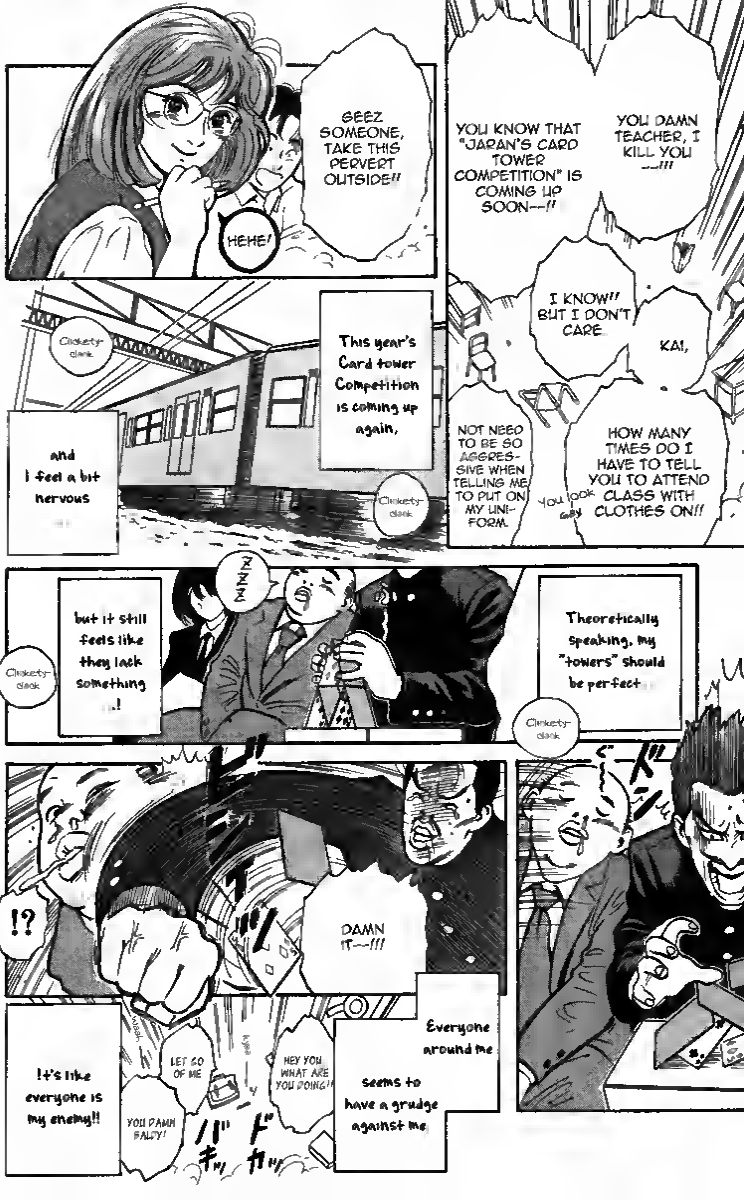
Have a good day xD

If you loved this series and enjoyed reading it, please support the mangaka by buying the original copy or a translated version when it becomes available in your country.

AH, YOU IDIOT. CHOOSE ANYONE BUT ME!!
EH!?
OI! KAI, YOU'RE LAST--
LET'S PLAY MAHJONG--
THIS IS YOUR OWN FAULT, I CAN'T HELP YOU!!!
HELP ME THINK OF SOME-THING--
ぷるぷるぷる
YOU DAMN BASTARD---!!
AH!!
KYAA---
UWAHH
KYAA---
KYAA---

KING OF TOWER
Pam!
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU THAT--!?!
DON'T BOTHER ME WHEN PLAYING "HOUSE OF CARDS"

My name is Kai Keisuke.
I was the champion of last year's "Japan's Card Tower Competition"
If someone were to ask, "what is building card towers to you?"
then I would definitely reply
"IT'S MY EVERY-THING!!"
"IT'S THE MEANING TO MY EXISTENCE!!" BUT----
KAI!!
UWAAH
YOU DAMN BASTARD ----!!!!
JUST HOW LONG DO YOU PLAN TO PLAY FOR!!


GEEZ SOMEONE, TAKE THIS PERVERT OUTSIDE!!
HEHE!
YOU KNOW THAT "JARAN'S CARD TOWER COMPETITION" IS COMING UP SOON--!!
YOU DAMN TEACHER, I KILL YOU --!!!
I KNOW!! BUT I DON'T CARE
KA!,
NOT NEED TO BE SO AGGRESSIVE WHEN TELLING ME TO PUT ON MY UNIFORM.
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU TO ATTEND CLASS WITH CLOTHES ON!!
You look cute
Clickety clank
This year's Card tower Competition is coming up again,
and I feel a bit nervous
Clickety clank
Clickety clank
but it still feels like they lack something..!
Theoretically speaking, my "towers" should be perfect..
Clickety clank
!?
DAMN IT--!!!
!t's like everyone is my enemy!!
LET GO OF ME
HEY YOU, WHAT ARE YOU DOING!!
YOU DAMN FAIRY!
Everyone around me seems to have a grudge against me

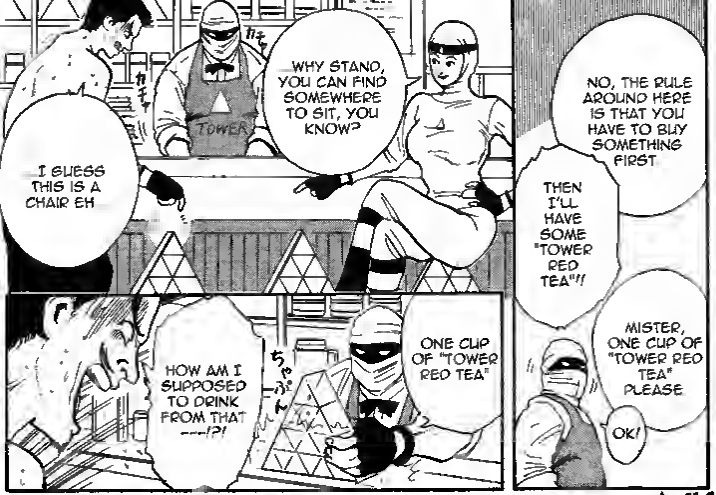
I-I-know
Lightly, don't move it, I'll take...
PANT
If one set (2 layers) are just slightly unbalanced, the entire tower will collapse...
"Card Tower"!!!
It's also a harsh and devastating battle---
--This a test of concentration and perseverance
Why is this...!?
ばたばたばた
はた!!
!!
LAST YEAR
THIS YEAR'S COMPETITION GOES TO KAI KEISUKE KUN WHO HAS MANAGED TO BUILD A EIGHT-LEVEL CARD TOWER
LASTLY, I'D LIKE TO WELCOME JAPAN CARD TOWER INC'S PRESIDENT, TAWARA SOUJIRO,
TO SHOW US THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF THIS GAME!!
Could it be that I'm not good enough...!?
SHAKE

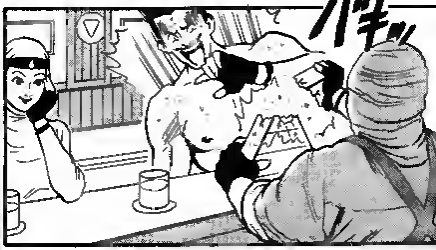
HMPH!!
HMPH!!
HMPH!!
HMPH!!
HMPH!!
but the most surprising thing had yet to come !!
I SPENT A WHOLE HOUR DOING "EIGHT LEVELS" BUT HE ONLY NEEDED TEN MINUTES
Why don't his towers collapse...
WOAH!
WHAT!! IT DIDN'T COLLAPSE!! UNBELIEVABLE!!
Damn it— that's just out of my league—
How is that possible?!
even now, I still can't believe what I saw...

!!
Eh...!? What's with this "single tower"...*
It looks pretty good...!!
Single Tower Considered the Basics, I Guess...?
PHEW
Hm...probably to result of my efforts recently...
GLINT
smirk
O...Oi!!! WHAT'S WITH THAT SMIRK
WHY DO I FEEL LIKE I'M BEING MOCKED...!!
ガーン
perfect tower actually exists
Such, such a...
ドクン ドクン ドクン
ビルディング

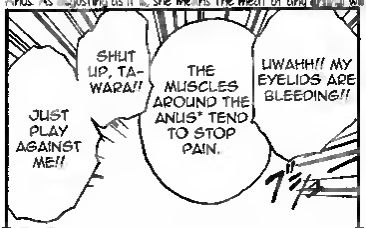
Tawara: You may be interested to know that her name "Tawara" is spelt differently to that president's "Tawara"

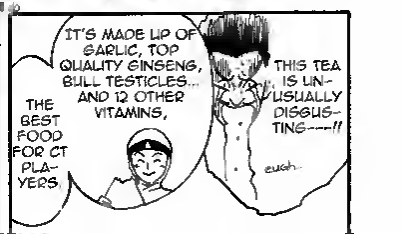
IS THE "CARD TOWER UNIFORM"
YOU...YOUR CLOTHES
ビシィ
WELCOME TO—
TAWARA RINKO...!
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME...
WOULDN'T YOU REJECT PLAYING WITH ME THEN...
KAI-KUN...?
CT head-band
CT suitcase
CT gloves
YOU REALLY ARE A WOMAN OF CARD TOWER
NO THE SYMBOL ON YOUR CHEST IS "OFFICIAL RECOGNISATION OF MAKING HIGH TOWERS"!!
"TOWER" CAFE
NO WAY!! I CHALLENGE YOU HERE AND NOW!!
menu
• Tower Coffee ¥1,500
Tower Red Tea ¥1,500
•Tower Fried Ri
above
BUT BEFORE THAT...
WOULD YOU LIKE ANYTHING, KAI-KUN?
OF COURSE !!
CT long socks


WHY STANO, YOU CAN FIND SOMEWHERE TO SIT, YOU KNOW?
I GUESS THIS IS A CHAIR EH
TOWER
NO, THE RULE AROUND HERE IS THAT YOU HAVE TO BUY SOMETHING FIRST
THEN I'LL HAVE SOME "TOWER RED TEA"!!
MISTER, ONE CUP OF "TOWER RED TEA" PLEASE
OK!
ONE CUP OF "TOWER RED TEA"
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO DRINK FROM THAT ---!?!



Anus: As disgusting as it is, she means the meat of any animal will do




IT'S MADE UP OF GARLIC, TOP QUALITY GINSENG, BULL TESTICLES... AND 12 OTHER VITAMINS,
THE BEST FOOD FOR CT PLAYERS
THIS TEA IS UNUSUALLY DISGUSTING---!!
euch...

IT'S FOUR,
LET'S BEGIN
O-OKA, KAAAY !!
WHICH MAKES EXACTLY EIGHT LEVELS
EVERYONE HAS 100 CARDS,
THE TIME LIMIT IS THE SAME AS THOSE IN COMPE-TITIONS, YOU GET ONE HOUR
THE FRICTION OF THESE "TOWER PODS" ARE THE SAME, SO IT'S FAIR
コトッ
Why!! I feel so strange !!
ba-dump
ba-dump
shake
flush
ba-dump
ba-dump
Damn it...why is my heart beating so fast...!!
...Three levels left...
tick tock
tick tock
She's a bit slower than me...

THUMP
WAIT!
SNAP
AH
tick tack tick tack
Huff... the last level...
Tawara Rinko... you're slower than me after all...
WHoooooosH
UWAH!!
LEND LEND
KYAAAAAA!!
IT'S FIVE,
KAI-KUN!!
HAA!
boing boing

PLEASE GIVE ME ANOTHER CHANCE...
KAI-KUN...
HELP ME TAWARA...
Why...
Round 2
Round 3
Calm down!! I am the winner of the "Card Tower Competition" after all...!!
ONE MORE TIME
GOT THAT!?
A. AGAIN
I BEG YOU...
Round 4
I must calm down!!
ONCE MORE
ONE MORE TIME
AGAIN!!
ONE MORE TIME!!
I couldn't even make a "single tower"...
tick tack
Then finally, round 8
pant
pant
pant

HMPH!!!
HEY YOU, CALM DOWN,
arrrgh
IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT!! IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOUR SCREAMING I COULD HAVE WON!!
KAI-KUN!!
DAMN IT!!
ガシャーン
Kai-kun
KAI-KUN!!
SOR SORRY TAWARA. I...
DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY I FEEL SO UPSET...
YOU'VE TAUGHT ME MANY THINGS TODAY...
GOODBYE...
KA KAI-KUN...
I'm sorry
THERE AREN'T MANY TRAINS AT THIS TIME...

He didn't participate in the competition he was looking forward to so much
.....
A month has passed since then--
and didn't appear at school either
TOWER
It must've been because I damaged his pride...
If I'd know...
SIGH--
I wouldn't have played against him
!?
!!
clang
clang
ONE BOWL OF "TOWER FRIED RICE" PLEASE

KA. KAI-KUN!?
KAI-KUN!!
This, this is really disgus-ting
Damn...
WHERE DID YOU GO!? EVERYONE WAS SO WORRIED ABOUT YOU!!!
DON'T TELL ME YOU HID SOMEWHERE TO DO SPECIAL LESSONS ON MAKING TOWERS
HMPH!!
HMPH!!
HMPH!!
HMPH!!
HMPH!!
HMPH!!
HMPH!!

BUT THE THOUGHT OF MAKING THEM NEVER LEFT MY MIND FOR A SINGLE DAY...
TAWARA C...!!
.....
TEMPLE!?
NO, I STAYED IN MY FAMILY'S OLD TEMPLE
I DIDN'T DO ANY SPECIAL TRAINING TO BUILD BETTER CARD TOWERS BUT IN THIS LAST MONTH...
.....GOT IT..!!
IT'S NOT JUST A COMPETITION AGAINST YOU,
IT'S ONE AGAINST MYSELF TOO !!
FINE..!!
THEN, LET'S BEGIN
OK
MASTER, PLEASE BE OUR REFEREE
TIME LIMIT IS AN HOUR LIKE LAST TIME,
BUT I'D LIKE EVERYONE TO HAVE 115 CARDS EACH..
115 CARDS !?
THAT'S HOW MUCH YOU NEED TO BUILD TEN LEVELS YOU SURE!?
YEP I'M SURE

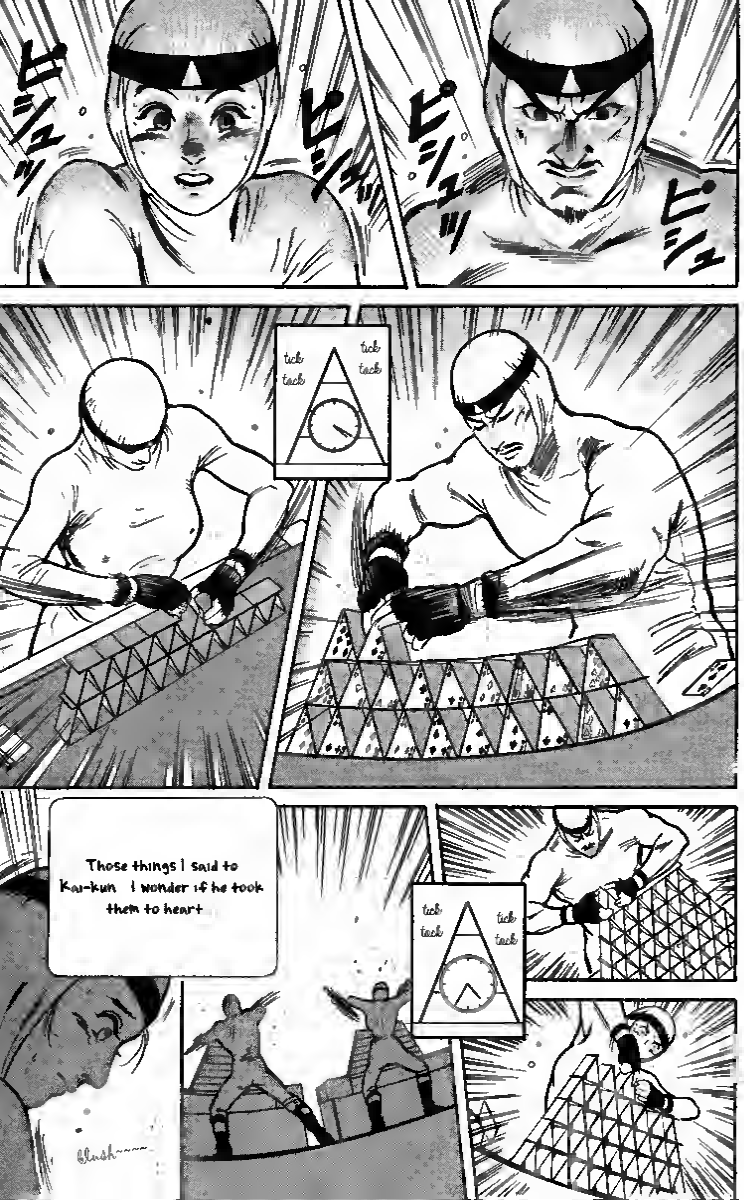
I...
Tanaka...
"Don't forget that YOU are often your worst enemy...!!"
I...!!
"Take this!"
Switch to an "empty state"
"Kai... forget all of your troubles"

HMPH!!
ピシャ
HMPH!!
HMPH!!
HMPH!!
ピシャ
HMPH
HMPH
HMPH
HMPH
HMPH!!
ピシャ
HMPH!!

TAWARA!!
!!
-phew
WHY AREN'T YOU PLAYING AGAINST ME WITH ALL OF YOUR STRENGTH!?
ヒクッ
!!
...IF I WIN...
.....
TOWER
BUT...

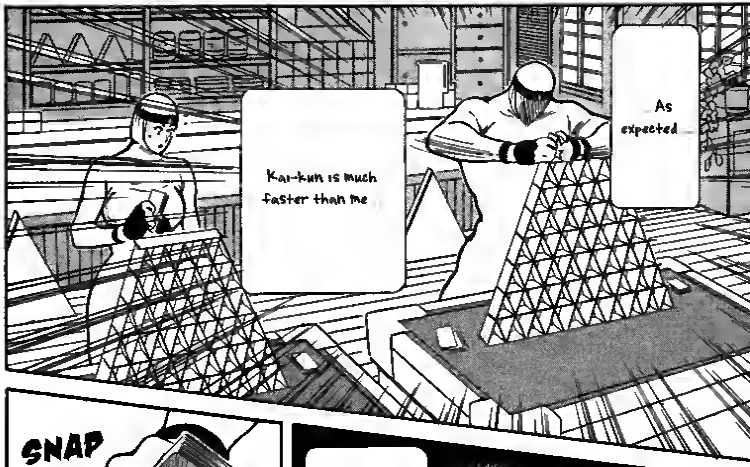
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING...?
.....
YOU'LL LEAVE MY SIDE AGAIN...
IF I WIN...
I... I LIKE YOU
KAI-KUN...
I LIKE YOU...
.....
PERSONAL EMOTIONS AREN'T WHAT SHAPES A GAME.
!!
IF I WERE TO WIN IN SUCH A WAY,
THAT SORT OF VICTORY WON'T ACTUALLY MEAN ANYTHING TO ME, YOU KNOW...

I HADN'T EXPECTED YOU THINK LIKE THAT I'M DISAP-POINTED
RESTART!!
THAT CERTAINLY ISN'T WORTHY OF BEING A CARD TOWER COMPETITOR, RIGHT!?
!!
KA KAI-KUN HE...
HE GREW SO MUCH IN THE LAST MONTH!!
I WON'T WIN EVEN IF I DO MY BEST...
PERHAPS THIS TIME...


ピシュッ
ピシュッ
ピシュッ
ピシュッ
tick tack
tick tack
Those things I said to Ku-kun I wonder if he took them to heart
tick tack
tick tack
flush~~~

!!

He definitely... finds me boring...


As expected...
Kai-kun is much faster than me...

SNAP
I'll just have to use my new, but incomplete technique now...

tick tock
It really is difficult to complete ten levels in an hour...
Just fifteen minutes left...

!
"RINKO'S SPECIAL"!!
that is...
Although this way is a bit risky.
I no longer have time to do them one by one—!!
EH
HEHEHE... IT'S GOING PRETTY WELL.
.....

OH NO----!!
Thank...God, it was just one level...
haa
haa
haa
haa
Just five minutes left...
Kai-kun's on the very last step...
tick tack
tick tack
!!

The very top (of the card tower) can only be put up in the last few moments...
That's because the uppermost cards don't have any supporting cards...
So if the wind blows, it's easy to fall...
tick tack
tick tack
and...
tick tack
tick tack

that very moment when the card tower is completed—
tick tack
tick tack
HMPH!!
YAA--!!
is the greatest moment of triumph !!

brrrng brrrng
TIME'S UP---!!!
WOAH
TOWER

JAPAN'S CARO TOWER INC'S PRESIDENT—
TOWER
TAWARA SOUJIROU!!
Y...Y-YOU'RE...
Huh ? 田原 (Rinko) = Tawara = 俵 (Soujirou)
EH!?
O...
OAO...

ガーん
I see...!! So that why...!!
She's the daughter of the society's pres...!!
BOTH OF US MADE TEN LEVELS IN THE ALLOCATED TIME...
バサッ
THAT MEANS IT SHOULD BE A TIE DAD...
WHAT, WHAT ARE YOU DOING!? DAD!!
.....

THAT MADE YOUR TOWER COLLAPSE SO EASILY!!
IT'S BECAUSE OF YOUR HALF-HEARTED DETERMI-NATION.
CAN WITHSTAND ANY SORT OF VIBRATION.
ガード
……
!!
KAI-KUN'S TOWER,
RINKO, YOU SEE THAT?
TOWER
!?

DID AFFECT MY PERFOR-MANCE MORE OR LESS...
...SAYING WHAT I DID BEFORE A COMPETITION,
IT'S NOT MY FAULT...
ONLY THE STRONGEST, UNWAVERING DETERMINATION CAN MAKE THE MOST PERFECT TOWERS
RINKO!! IS THAT WHAT A TRUE CARD TOWER PLAYER WOULD SAY!?
HOW WEAK YOUR DETER-MINATION IS
THEREFORE, FROM YOUR TOWER I CAN SEE
ALL REFLECT ON THE PERSO-NALITY OF THEIR CREATOR
THE TOWERS PEOPLE BUILD,
ONLY BY CAREFULLY PUTTING THE CARDS IN PLACE ONE-BY-ONE,
"THERE ARE NO TOWERS MADE BY SPEED!!!
CAN YOU REACH THE DAZZLING PEAK OF THE TOWER!!
NOT ONLY DID YOU WAVER AFTER CONFESSING TO KAI-KUN,
YOU TRIED TO HIDE YOUR INABILITY,
BY USING SOME STUPID CHEAT...

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AND PUT ALL OF HIS ATTENTION INTO HIS TOWER.
BUT HE QUICKLY AND SUCCESS-FULLY HID THOSE FEELINGS IN HIS HEART,
KAI-KUN'S HEART WAS AS MESSY AS YOURS, RINKO.
...AFTER HEARING YOUR CON-FESSION,
ズン
LISTEN TO ME TAWARA.
THEREFORE, HE COMPLETED THE FIRST,
MOST BEAUTIFUL CREATION IN THE CARD TOWER HISTORY.
THAT KEPT ON STOPPING ME FROM CONCEN-TRATING.
WAS MAINLY BECAUSE OF MY THOUGHTS TOWARDS YOU,
THAT MASSIVE DEFEAT LAST MONTH,

Damn it
THAT'S WHY
I GOT SO ANGRY AT MISCELLANEOUS THINGS.
HAVING SAID THAT, IT'S REALLY QUITE EMBARRASSING
MY WEAKNESS WASN'T IN SKILL, BUT MY DETERMINATION.
THAT WAS WHEN I REALISED,
Tawara-kun likes you
But we're competing at the same moment
...NO MATTER WHERE HE GOES ...FOLLOW CLOSELY BEHIND...!!
...AND THEN...
Tawara-sensei
DAD THANKS
DID YOU JUST SAY...
H-HEY KAI-KUN
SOMEONE AS HALF-HEARTED AS YOU
OUGHT TO STAY BY KAI-KUN'S SIDE AND RE-LEARN EVERYTHING!!
YOU REALLY ARE STUPID!!
SHUT UP, RINKO!!
I'D RATHER EAT TOWER FRIED RICE~~
UMM, IT'S GREAT!!
Dad's super pleased with this
"TOWER HAMBURGER"?
OF MY LATEST RECOMMENDATION,
WHAT DO YOU THINK, KAI-KUN,
BaDUMP
BaDUMP

/fin